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ABSTRACT

In June 1990, a statewide telephone survey was conducted of 1,200 former full- and part-time Michigan community college students who had not returned for classes in fall 1989. The 29 colleges were classified as urban, suburban, and regional institutions, and a total of 200 former full-time and 200 former part-time students were contacted from each group. Responses were compared with opinions of enrolled students surveyed previously. Findings from the survey included the following: (1) 60% of the former full-time and 62% of the former part-time students stated that they had attended college to improve their job prospects; (2) 27% of the former students had applied to a four-year college before attending community college; (3) the two most frequently cited reasons for having enrolled in community college among both former and currently enrolled students were to save money (38%) and to be closer to home (33%); (4) among reasons for not continuing their community college enrollment were graduation (23%) and transfer to a four-year college (21%); (5) 64% of the former students had been part-time students; (6) 34% of the respondents quit because of institutional reasons, while 36% cited personal reasons; (7) among those citing personal reasons, 57% were women; (8) 39% of all former students indicated that their community college education had made a significant difference to them in their jobs; (9) for both current and formerly enrolled students, lack of parking drew the greatest criticism, while college faculty received extremely high praise; and (10) the majority of the respondents who had not transferred or graduated planned to return to continue that community college education. Extensive data tables and the survey instrument are included. (GFW)

ED327238

One of a Series
of Public Opinion Surveys
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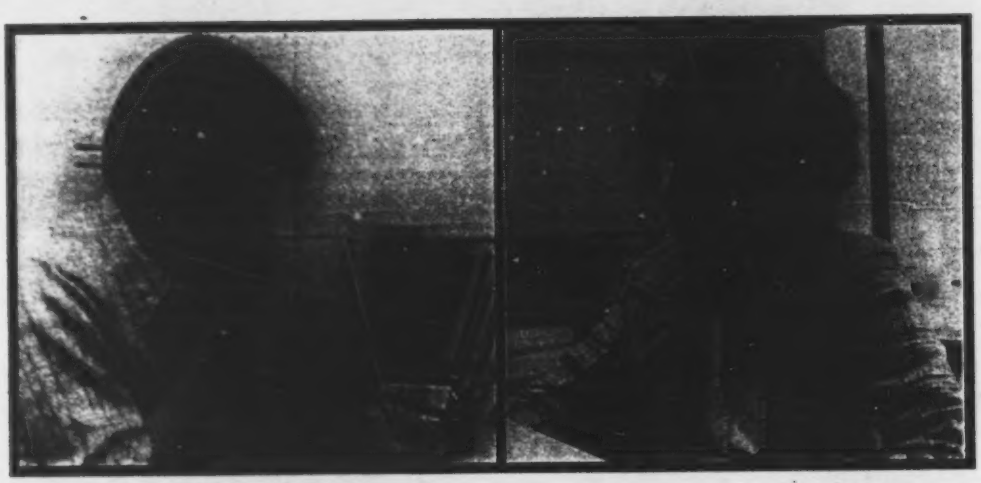

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OPINIONS OF THE STOPOUTS- (FORMER STATEWIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS) JUNE 1990

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OPINIONS OF THE STOP-OUTS

(FORMER STATEWIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS)

*

An Opinion Survey
Conducted by Telephone Interviews
June 18-21, 25-28, 1990

*

One of a Series
of
Public Opinion Surveys
Conducted by

Project Outreach
of the Michigan State Board of Education
Michigan Department of Education
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All figures shown in this report are in percentages, rounded to the nearest percentage. When columns do not total 100%, it is due to rounding. When responses greatly exceed 100%,

METHODOLOGY OF THE SURVEY

This first statewide telephone opinion survey of former community college students "stop-outs" was conducted by Project Outreach during June 18-21 and June 25-28, 1990. This study was a follow-up to the third statewide survey of current community college students, conducted in June of 1990.

This survey included the opinions of both former full-time and former part-time community college students to get a viewpoint of former students of the state's system of community colleges. Such a study was originally suggested by the State Board for Public Community and Junior Colleges and had the endorsement of the Michigan Community College Association.

Ned S. Hubbell, Director of Project Outreach, suggested a sampling framework that divided the 29 community colleges into three major clusters: urban (8), suburban (7), and regional (14).

Urban community colleges included:

C.S. Mott
Delta
Grand Rapids
Henry Ford
Highland Park
Kalamazoo
Lansing
Wayne

Suburban community colleges included:

Jackson
Kellogg
Macomb
Oakland
St. Clair
Schoolcraft
Washtenaw

The regional community colleges included the following:

Alpena
Bay de Noc
Glen Oaks
Gogebic
Kirtland
Lake Michigan
Mid-Michigan
Monroe
Muskegon
North Central
Northwestern
Montcalm
Southwestern
West Shore

Two separate sub-groups within each of the three clusters were accomplished, i.e., 200 former full-time students and 200 former part-time students in each of the three clusters. Respondents were selected from the lists of former students in each college who did not return for classes in the fall of 1989. Those chosen were drawn by systematic random sampling by Project Outreach.

Sampling was based upon a 95% confidence factor with the following sampling error:

Respondent Group	n		Sampling Error %
All former student respondents	1,200		3.0%
Full-time former students	600		4.0
Part-time former students	600		4.0
Urban/suburban/regional colleges	400	(ea)	4.9
Graduates	295		5.8
Transferred students	283		5.9
Former one-course enrollees	94		10.0
Work change stop-outs	215		7.0
Personal life change stop-outs	223		7.0
Institutional reason stop-outs	213		7.0

Most interviewing was accomplished between the hours of 5:30 and 9:30 p.m., although some daytime interviews were conducted by call-back appointments. Average length of the interview was 20 minutes.

The project could not have been successfully accomplished without the cooperation and assistance of each of the state's 29 community colleges. Each college drew the random sampling in accordance with appropriate sampling procedures and provided the respondent information in time for the project to be completed. Much credit for the project's completion should go to James Folkening, Community College Consultant for the Michigan Department of Education. Sampling design was assisted by Dr. Sharif Shakrani and the project was under the direction of Ned S. Hubbell, APR.

Executive Summary

OPINIONS OF THE STOP-OUTS

(FORMER STATEWIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS)

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A Summary

OPINIONS OF THE STOP-OUTS -- (FORMER STATEWIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS)

The former community college students put the same major emphasis on a college education that motivates currently-enrolled students -- the belief that a college education increases a person's job opportunities. Six out of every ten former students named a better job as their reason for attending a college. And that goal is shared equally by former part-time students (62%) as well as former full-time students (60%).

Those former students who have the greatest motivation to acquire skills for a better job are those students (67%) who have since transferred to a four-year college.

One out of every five currently enrolled students (21%) said they first applied to a four-year college. But former students are more likely to have done that (27%). And almost one-half (43%) of former students now transferred to a four-year college originally applied to a four-year school.

Both currently enrolled students and former students applied to a community college for the same two reasons -- the community college is less expensive (38%) and it is more convenient, closer to their home (33%).

Current and former students seem to be driven by another major sub-goal -- either to obtain university transfer credit or to receive training to prepare them for a job. While four out of ten current students (42%) hope to attain transfer credit, that was the same goal for 35% of former students.

The field of business is the most popular program of study of both current community college students (22%) and former students (26%). That course of study is fueled by the high interest of former part-time students, most of whom are already employed in the field of business.

This first statewide survey of former community college students revealed very quickly <u>why</u> those students did not return. Nearly one-fourth (23%) graduated from their community college while better than one-fifth (21%) transferred to a four-year college in the fall of 1989.

The balance (56%) are true "stop-outs". Of those, 45% did not return because their work changes prevented it. They are, for the most part (64%), part-time students. And they are more likely to be men (53%) than women. Further, 43% are single while 44% of these stop-outs are married.

Another category of stop-outs are those students who did not return in the fall due to changes in their personal life. That is, they got married, or divorced, had a baby in the family, moved away, etc. They represent 36% of all community college stop-outs. Nearly one-half of them (46%) were enrolled full-time while the majority (54%) were part-time students. More of them were women (57%) than men (43%) and they are more likely to be single (48%) rather than married (42%).

Another one-third of the former students (34%) quit because of institutional reasons. Either the course(s) they wanted were not available, or they disliked the teacher(s), they could not afford it, or some other institutional reason. These are the true stop-outs and they constitute 18% of all former students interviewed in the survey. These institutional stop-outs are about evenly divided between women (49%) and men (51%) and the majority of them are married (53%) rather than (47%).

The vast majority of former students (72%) said visiting with a college counselor would not have deterred them from terminating their experience at a community college. That negative response came from 77% of those who already graduated and 72% of those who since have transferred to a four-year college. And 87% of the former students who had only been enrolled in one course were not interested in talking to a counselor. Among the true stop-outs -- those who quit due to dissatisfaction with the college, 6% said visiting with a counselor might have helped them, another 11% said it could possibly have helped them but nearly eight of ten (79%) of these dissatisfied students said they were not interested in a visit with a counselor at the time they quit.

The vast majority of true stop-outs -- those former students who quit last year, gave indications the majority plan to return. Among those stop-outs who had only taken one course before, 50% said they will probably re-enroll at some future date but only 9% planned to return in the fall of 1990. Only 19% said they will not take another course at the community college while 22% of them are undecided about their future academic plans.

Those stop-outs who left due to work changes are quite likely to return. Thirty percent (30%) of them said they will re-enroll in the Fall of 1990; another 41% said they will return at a later date. Only 17% of these stop-outs said they will not re-enroll while another 12% are undecided about their future.

There is a majority of interest in returning, even among those who left due to some dissatisfaction with the institution. Eighteen percent (18%) said they will be back in Fall, 1990 and 42% intend to return at a later date. Only one-fourth (24%) said they will definitely not return while 15% are undecided.

Exactly one-half (50%) of the former community college students said they would still like to get course information from their former college. That holds true more for former part-time students (58%) than former full-time students (43%).

Even the majority of true stop-outs still want to get course information from their former community college. That holds true for 59% of the former students who had previously enrolled only for one course, for 58% of those who left for personal reasons and even for 55% of those who left due to dissatisfaction with the institution.

While the majority of former students (62%) said community college training did not make any difference in their job status, nearly four out of ten (39%) said such training made a significant difference to them on the job. Seventeen percent (17%) said they got a new job as a result, another 12% said they got a raise while still another 10% said they got promoted. One-third (33%) of those who graduated said they got a new job as a result of community college training.

Those stop-outs who left due to a change in their job benefited from the community college in other ways. Nearly one-fifth (19%) said they got a raise as a result of their training, 14% said they got promoted and 17% said they got a new job as a result.

One-fifth (19%) of those who quit for personal reasons said they got a new job as a result of community college training, 13% said they got promoted and 12% said they got a raise as a result of their training.

While the majority of current community college students (60%) plan on transferring to a four-year college, only 28% of former students are planning to do that, 29% have already transferred and 34% said they do not plan to transfer. Yet nearly one-half (44%) of former students still hope to eventually earn a Bachelor's degree. The majority of former students who graduated from the community college hope to earn a Bachelor's degree while better than eight out of ten transfer students have their sights set on the Bachelor's degree. Attainment of the four-year degree is less a major priority for most true community college stop-outs.

Current community college students identified four factors as most important in their decision to enroll in a community college, and former students agreed wholeheartedly. The four factors: 1) location of the college, 2) availability of a particular program of study, 3) cost of attending college, 4) variety of courses offered.

While the majority (54%) of current community college students say getting an Associate degree is very important, former students are much less likely to agree. Forty-two percent (42%) believe such a degree is very important, 22% say it is somewhat important, but one-third of them (33%) say the Associate degree is not that important.

Former students agreed with current students by singling out for high praise three aspects of community college life as deserving the highest ratings. Those three included library services, campus safety, and the student bookstore. Other services praised very highly by both groups were computer labs/facilities, course selection advisement, study rooms and areas, and new student orientation. Lack of parking drew the higher percentage of "poor" ratings, both from former and current students.

Both current and former community college students gave extremely high praise to both full-time and part-time community college faculty.

And both groups strongly agreed that the cost of tuition at a community college is very reasonable. None out of ten of both groups said they felt they were "getting their money's worth" from the community college.

***

IMPORTANCE OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION

The former community college students put the same major emphasis on a college education that motivates currently-enrolled college students.

That emphasis is the belief that a college education increases a person's job opportunities. Six out of every ten "stop-outs" -- former community college students, named the belief a college education increases their job opportunities as their major motivation for seeking a college education.

And that belief is shared almost equally by former part-time students (62%) and former full-time community college students (60%).

Those who feel most strongly that a college education increases their job opportunities are former community college students who have already transferred to a four-year college. Two-thirds (67%) of these former community college students cited that belief in response to the value of a college education.

Those who only enrolled in one course for their own interest believe less strongly in increasing their job opportunities. Although 53% cited that as their reason for going to college. These particular students are more prone to believe some college education gives them a "well-rounded life" (15%) or gives them "more personal satisfaction" (10%).

"What is so important, anyway, about a college education?"

	Stud.)*	('90 Resp.*	All Time*	Part Time*	Full Urb.*	Sub.*	Reg.*
Increases job opportunities	(73%)	61%	62%	60%	66%	60%	58%
Makes you a well-rounded/knowledgeable person	(2)	12	13	11	12	13	10
Get further in life	(--)	10	8	12	9	10	12
Personal satisfaction	(8)	9	9	10	10	8	11
Improves income	(--)	8	8	9	8	9	8
To be successful	(--)	4	3	5	4	6	2
Provides job security/ makes you self-supporting	(9)	3	3	3	3	2	4
Shows motivation; ability to "stick-with-it"	(--)	3	3	2	3	2	3
Miscellaneous reasons	(1)	2	2	1	1	2	2
Can't say	(3)	5	7	3	4	6	5

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

	All Resp.*	Grad*	Tran*	One Cour*	Work Chg.*	Pers Chg.*	Inst*
Increases job opportunities	61%	61%	67%	53%	58%	54%	56%
Makes you a well-rounded/knowledgeable person	12	13	12	15	10	12	14
Get further in life	10	8	11	9	10	14	10
Improves income	8	7	8	7	7	10	8
Personal satisfaction	9	12	6	10	11	7	8
To be successful	4	6	4	5	4	3	6
Provides job security/ makes you self-supporting	3	4	3	-	4	3	3
Shows motivation;	3	3	2	5	3	4	3
Miscellaneous	2	1	2	2	2	2	1
Can't say	5	2	2	12	4	7	8

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

REASONS FOR SELECTING A COMMUNITY COLLEGE

One out of every five currently enrolled community college students (21%) said they first applied to a four-year college. But the "stop-out" -- former community college students who did not re-enroll last fall, are more likely to have done that. Nearly three out of ten (27%) former students said they had first applied to a community college. Those that did are more likely to have been enrolled in a community college on a full-time basis, rather than a part-time basis (30% vs. 23%).

Almost one-half (43%) of those former community college students who have since transferred to a four-year college admitted they had originally applied to one or more four-year colleges when they first began their college career.

"Did you first apply to a 4-year college?"

	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes	(21%)	27%	23%	30%	29%	30%	22%
No	(78)	74	77	70	72	71	79

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Yes	27%	25%	43%	34%	17%	19%	25%
No	74	75	57	66	83	81	75

Former community college students, who had initially applied to a four-year college, finally selected a community college for the same reason as their former peers -- the community college is less expensive (38%) and it is more convenient, closer to their home (33%). Thirteen percent (13%) said they felt the community college had a better program more suited to their needs while another 12% said they chose the community college because of the need to improve their grades before they enrolled in a four-year institution.

"(IF "YES") Why did you select a community college (instead)?"

	(21% of '90 Stud.)*	27% of All Resp.*	23% of Part Time*	30% of Full Time*	29% of Urb.*	30% of Sub.*	22% of Reg.*
Cheaper/less costly	(40%)	38%	31%	43%	39%	36%	41%
Closer to home	(37)	33	35	32	31	32	38
Have a better program	(8)	13	14	12	12	13	14
Need to improve my grades	(14)	12	8	15	11	14	10
To get ready for a 4-year college	(7)	2	2	1	3	2	-
More personalized	(5)	6	5	7	4	8	6
Close to my job	(4)	5	4	5	4	8	1
Unsure of major	(--)	2	1	3	3	2	2
Friend/relative goes there	(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous reasons	(5)	3	4	2	4	1	5
Can't say	(3)	5	7	3	4	5	6

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

	27% of All Resp.*	25% of Grad*	43% of Tran*	34% of One Cour*	17% of Work Chg.*	19% of Pers Chg.*	25% of Inst*
Cheaper/less costly	38%	41%	47%	19%	32%	33%	23%
Closer to home	33	41	26	16	38	53	26
Have a better program	13	15	9	22	5	7	17
Need to improve my grades	12	8	20	-	14	12	6
To get ready for a 4-year college	6	3	7	25	5	2	17
More personalized	6	9	5	9	3	2	6
Close to my job	5	5	4	6	3	5	6
Unsure of major	2	-	2	-	8	5	2
Friend/relative goes there	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous reasons	3	3	2	-	8	2	6
Can't say	5	3	2	22	8	-	17

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

The vast majority of former community college students (74%) did not first apply to a four-year college when they first enrolled in higher education. They chose a community college for the two major reasons reported by current students -- the community college is closer to home (54%) and tuition and fees are less costly (32%). Those two reasons are expressed almost equally by both former full-time and former part-time students.

Reasons for choosing the community college, rather than a four-year college, are shown in the following responses of former community college students.

"(IF "NO") Why did you choose a community college?"

	(78% of '90 Stud.)*	74% of All Resp.*	77% of Part Time*	70% of Full Time*	72% of Urb.*	71% of Sub.*	79% of Reg.*
Closer to home	(58%)	54%	53%	54%	39%	53%	68%
Cheaper/less costly	(31)	32	27	38	38	32	27
Had desired program/ classes	(12)	9	11	8	9	11	8
To get ready for a 4-year school	(10)	6	4	7	6	7	4
Close to my job	(6)	4	6	2	3	5	4
Had a scholarship/ employer pays	(2)	3	4	1	4	2	2
It's more personal	(4)	4	4	4	6	2	4
Classes scheduled at convenient times/fits personal schedule	(--)	3	5	2	5	4	1
Could enroll with lower grades from high school	(2)	3	2	4	3	3	2
Provides a good education	(2)	2	2	2	2	1	3
To help me mature	(4)	2	1	3	2	4	1
Wanted an Associate degree	(--)	1	2	1	2	1	1
To help me be more independent	(1)	-	1	-	1	-	-
Friend/relative goes there	(--)	1	-	1	-	1	1
Miscellaneous reasons	(2)	1	1	2	3	1	1
Can't say	(1)	1	1	2	2	-	2

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

	74% of All Resp.*	75% of Grad*	57% of Tran*	66% of One Cour*	83% of Work Chg.*	81% of Pers Chg.*	75% of Inst*
Closer to home	54%	59%	50%	45%	57%	55%	51%
Cheaper/less costly	32	36	44	16	27	33	22
Had desired program/ classes	13	16	7	23	8	9	19
To get ready for a 4-year school	8	6	16	2	6	7	4
Close to my job	4	5	4	6	6	3	6
Had a scholarship/ employer pays	4	1	2	11	4	5	6
It's more personal	4	4	3	6	4	4	4
Classes scheduled at convenient times/fits personal schedule	3	3	4	-	6	4	3
Could enroll with lower grades from high school	3	2	4	2	4	3	2
Provides a good education	2	2	1	2	2	3	1
To help me mature	2	1	4	3	3	3	3
Wanted an Associate degree	1	1	-	2	3	2	2
To help me be more independent	1	-	-	2	2	1	1
Friend/relative goes there	1	1	-	-	1	1	1
Miscellaneous reasons	1	2	3	-	-	1	1
Can't say	1	1	-	-	2	2	1

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

PRIMARY EDUCATION GOAL

Current and former community college students seem to be driven by the same major goals -- either to obtain university transfer credit or to receive training to prepare them for a job. While four out of every ten current students (42%) hope to gain transfer credit, that was the major goal for 35% of former students.

Nearly one-half (46%) of former students who were enrolled on a full-time basis were after transfer credit, they said, whereas almost one-half of the students formerly enrolled on a part-time basis sought job training.

One-fifth of former full-time students (21%) sought the Associate degree before they discontinued their studies in the fall of 1989-90 school year.

"What was your purpose -- that is, your primary educational goal in attending that community college?"

	('90 Stud.)*	All Resp.*	Part Time*	Full Time*	Urb.*	Sub.*	Reg.*
University transfer credit	(42%)	35%	24%	46%	37%	39%	29%
Preparation for a job I hope to get	(30)	22	23	21	22	19	26
To get a degree, certificate	(3)	18	15	21	18	16	19
Improvement of existing job skills	(15)	16	24	8	16	13	19
Personal interest	(8)	13	19	7	11	14	13
To get the basics	(--)	3	2	4	2	5	3
Miscellaneous reasons	(--)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Can't say	(1)	1	2	-	1	2	1

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

	All Resp.*	Grad*	Tran*	One Cour*	Work Chg.*	Pers Chg.*	Inst*
University transfer credit	35%	33%	67%	10%	26%	29%	14%
Preparation for a job I hope to get	22	29	9	9	27	32	18
To get a degree, certificate	18	27	10	5	15	17	11
Improvement of existing job skills	16	14	5	39	23	18	31
Personal interest	13	6	8	43	15	8	30
To get the basics	3	3	6	2	1	-	4
Miscellaneous reasons	1	-	2	1	-	2	2
Can't say	1	1	-	1	-	1	1

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

Preference for the Associate degree is expressed by the plurality of former students (45%) and by the majority of current community college students (55%). But one-half (51%) of the former full-time students said that degree was their goal, also.

The part-time former students were just as interested in enrolling only in selected courses in which they were interested (39%).

"How did you expect to accomplish this goal? What type of requirements were involved?"

	('90 Stud.)*	All Resp.*	Part Time*	Full Time*	Urb.*	Sub.*	Reg.*
Associate Degree	(55%)	45%	40%	51%	50%	40%	47%
Selected course(s) only	(16)	31	39	22	22	39	32
University/college transfer	(26)	21	13	28	24	23	15
Certificate -- two year	(4)	4	4	3	3	3	5
Certificate -- one year	(2)	3	2	4	3	1	5
Complete Apprenticeship requirements	(4)	1	2	1	1	1	2
Certificate -- less than 1 year	(1)	1	2	1	1	1	2
Miscellaneous ways	(--)	1	2	1	1	2	1
Can't say	(2)	2	3	1	2	2	2

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

	All Resp.*	Grad*	Tran*	One Cour*	Work Chg.*	Pers Chg.*	Inst*
Associate Degree	45%	73%	29%	2%	46%	46%	28%
Selected course(s) only	31	9	33	88	32	28	62
University/college transfer	21	17	48	2	14	15	6
Certificate -- two year	4	6	4	-	4	5	2
Certificate -- one year	3	4	1	-	4	4	1
Complete Apprenticeship requirements	1	1	-	2	3	3	1
Certificate -- less than 1 year	1	2	-	3	1	2	2
Miscellaneous ways	1	1	2	1	-	1	-
Can't say	2	-	1	3	3	2	3

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

MAJOR FIELDS OF STUDY

The field of business is the most popular program of study of both current community college students (22%) and former students (26%). That course of study is fueled by high interest of part-time students, most of whom are already employed in some field of business.

But the liberal arts are gaining in popularity of these two-year college students, when one compares preferences of 1988 and 1990 community college students. And the community colleges seem to attract about one in ten students to the field of allied health, if not nursing.

All preferences of former students are shown in the next Table.

"In what type of program were you enrolled?"

	('90 Stud.)*	All Resp.*	Part Time*	Full Time*	Urb.*	Sub.*	Reg.*
Business	(22%)	26%	28%	24%	27%	26%	25%
Technical/Skilled Trades	(11)	17	18	15	17	14	19
Allied Health/Nursing	(12)	11	10	11	12	9	11
Liberal Arts	(5)	10	8	12	10	11	9
General/basic classes	(5)	8	8	8	7	10	6
Education	(9)	6	3	8	5	5	7
Computers	(4)	4	5	3	5	3	5
Engineering	(5)	4	4	3	4	4	3
Science	(3)	4	3	4	4	4	4
Law Enforcement	(3)	4	2	5	4	3	4
Fine Arts	(5)	3	3	3	3	3	3
English	(1)	2	3	1	2	2	2
Undecided	(3)	2	2	1	1	3	1
Mathematics	(1)	1	2	1	1	1	2
Social Science	(4)	1	1	1	1	-	2
Corrections	(2)	1	1	1	1	1	2
Humanities	(--)	1	1	1	-	1	1
Premed	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Child Development/ Child Care	(1)	1	1	1	2	1	-
Graphics	(4)	1	1	1	-	2	1
Political Science	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	1
Miscellaneous programs	(4)	1	1	1	2	1	1
Can't say	(1)	1	2	-	1	1	2

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

	All Resp.*	Grad*	Tran*	One Cour*	Work Chg.*	Pers Chg.*	Inst*
Business	26%	23%	25%	20%	31%	34%	22%
Technical/Skilled Trades	17	20	5	17	22	19	20
Allied Health/Nursing	11	17	6	6	7	11	9
Liberal Arts	10	12	20	3	6	6	6
General/basic classes	8	3	12	13	6	5	10
Education	6	7	8	1	5	7	2
Computers	4	2	1	13	6	5	8
Engineering	4	3	5	-	5	4	1
Science	4	5	4	2	2	1	2
Law Enforcement	4	3	4	4	4	2	3
Fine Arts	3	2	3	1	3	2	4
English	2	1	3	4	1	-	3
Undecided	2	-	2	5	2	2	4
Mathematics	1	-	1	4	1	-	2
Social Science	1	1	1	1	1	-	-
Corrections	1	2	-	1	2	2	1
Humanities	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Premed	1	-	-	-	-	2	-
Child Development/ Child Care	1	-	1	1	-	1	1
Graphics	1	1	1	1	-	2	-
Political Science	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Miscellaneous programs	1	1	1	6	-	-	3
Can't say	1	-	1	3	2	1	2

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

While 13% of the former community college students report they have already reached their goal, that of completing community college requirements, the vast plurality of former students have taken the long view of the time required for them to reach their educational goal.

Another 15% said they should complete those requirements in one more year but 17% feel it will probably take them two more years, 13% said two to three years, another 13% 3 to 5 years and 9% said they will stay enrolled or re-enroll as long as it takes to reach their goal.

"How long do you think it would take for you to accomplish your goal?"

	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Probably two years	(15%)	17%	14%	20%	18%	17%	16%
One more year	(17)	15	14	16	17	14	14
Already completed	(--)	13	13	13	19	10	10
3 to 5 years	(18)	13	12	15	10	15	15
Over 2 to 3 years	(19)	13	11	15	11	15	13
Whatever it takes	(10)	9	12	7	7	10	11
More than 5 years	(8)	6	6	6	6	6	6
Depends	(6)	5	7	3	4	4	7
Can't say	(7)	9	12	6	8	11	9

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Probably two years	17%	18%	22%	2%	16%	16%	8%
One more year	15	10	15	10	15	17	14
Already completed	13	37	11	18	5	4	10
3 to 5 years	13	8	18	5	14	13	13
Over 2 to 3 years	13	9	15	1	13	18	8
Whatever it takes	9	5	8	21	11	9	14
More than 5 years	6	4	5	3	6	7	5
Depends	5	3	2	14	8	6	9
Can't say	9	5	4	26	12	9	18

A new picture of the former community college student emerged in response to a question asking them what portion of their program of study had they completed when they left the community college. One-third (32%) of these former students said they did not return because they had completed their formal program of study. In fact, one-third (32%) of those who now have transferred to a four-year college said they had completed the two-year community college requirements when they left.

But among the true "stop-outs", those who did not return in the Fall, 1989, only 16% of those who quit because of job changes, 15% who quit due to personal life changes, and 15% who quit due to unsatisfactory conditions required by the college said they had completed their planned program of study.

> "If you are pursuing a formal program of study (like a Certificate, Associate Degree, or Apprenticeship), what portion of it did you complete by the time you left? All, more than half, about half, or less than half?"

	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
All	(13%)	32%	27%	37%	35%	28%	33%
More than half	(25)	18	18	19	21	18	16
About half	(25)	13	11	16	13	13	14
Less than half	(29)	26	28	24	23	29	27
Can't say	(8)	11	16	5	9	12	11

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst.
All	32%	86%	32%	24%	16%	15%	15%
More than half	18	6	20	7	24	25	13
About half	13	4	16	-	17	19	10
Less than half	26	2	26	21	32	35	31
Can't say	11	2	7	47	11	6	31

REASONS FOR NOT RETURNING

This first statewide survey of former community college students revealed very quickly why those students did not return. Nearly one-fourth (23%) graduated from their particular college while better than one-fifth (21%) transferred to a four-year college in the fall of 1989.

The balance (56%) are true "stop-outs". Of those, 45% did not return because their job changes prevented it. They are, for the most part (64%), part-time students. And they are more likely to be men (53%) than women. Further, 43% are single while 44% of these stop-outs are married.

Another category of stop-outs are those students who did not return in the fall due to personal changes in their life, i.e., they got married, or divorced, or moved away, or had a baby, etc. They constitute 36% of all community college stop-outs. Nearly one-half of them (46%) were enrolled full-time while the majority (54%) were part-time students. More women (57%) than men (43%), and they are more likely to be single (48%) than married (43%).

But another one-third (34%) of these former students quit because of some dissatisfaction with the school -- either the courses they wanted were not available, or they could not afford it, or they disliked their instructors, or other institutional reasons. The vast majority of these stop-outs (75%) were part-time students, not full-time. They are almost evenly divided between women (49%) and men (51%) and the majority of them (53%) are married, rather than single (47%).

All responses to the question of why they did not return are shown in the next Table.

"May I ask, why did you not return to the community college?"

	All Resp.*	Part Time*	Full Time*	Urb.*	Sub.*	Reg.*
I graduated, received an Associate's degree	23%	18%	28%	24%	22%	24%
Transferred to a four-year college	21	13	30	21	26	17
Financial difficulty; could not afford it	9	9	9	6	9	11
Only interested in a particular course(s)	8	13	2	10	6	8
Classes conflicted with work schedule	6	7	4	7	4	6
Job change prevented going to school	5	6	4	4	6	5
Found a job (in occupation for which I trained)	5	5	4	4	4	5
Had difficulty finding enough time to study	4	7	2	2	5	6
Got married/divorced -- status changed	3	4	2	3	3	4
Found a job (in another occupation)	3	3	3	3	4	3
Pregnancy/birth of child	3	3	2	3	3	3
Courses I needed were not available	3	3	2	1	3	4
Moved away	3	2	5	3	4	3
Health difficulty	2	3	2	2	2	3
Did not feel education was worth the time	2	3	1	2	3	2
Needed a break	2	2	2	4	1	-
Did not like my teacher(s)	2	2	1	1	3	1
Unsure of my academic/career goal	2	2	1	2	2	1
Received certificate	2	1	2	2	1	3
Still attending	1	2	1	2	2	1
Became dissatisfied with my career field	1	1	1	1	2	-
Program was not what I expected	1	1	1	2	1	1
Transferred to different college/school	1	-	2	1	1	1
I needed tutorial assistance	-	-	1	1	1	-
Courses too difficult to understand	-	-	-	1	-	-
Miscellaneous reasons	1	1	2	1	2	1
Can't say/declined	2	2	2	2	2	3

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.

	All Resp.*	Grad*	Tran*	One Cour*	Work Chg.*	Pers Chg.*	Inst*
I graduated, received an Associate's degree	23%	93%	16%	-%	4%	5%	-%
Transferred to a four-year college	21	16	90	-	1	3	1
Financial difficulty; could not afford it	9	-	-	-	9	4	5
Only interested in a particular course(s)	8	-	-	100	2	1	44
Classes conflicted with work schedule	6	-	-	1	30	2	4
Job change prevented going to school	5	-	-	2	2	2	2
Found a job (in occupation for which I trained)	5	3	1	2	25	24	2
Had difficulty finding enough time to study	4	-	-	-	23	2	24
Got married/divorced -- status changed	3	-	-	-	4	7	-
Found a job (in another occupation)	3	-	-	-	16	15	-
Pregnancy/birth of child	3	-	-	-	2	14	-
Courses I needed were not available	3	-	-	1	1	-	14
Moved away	3	1	1	-	1	17	-
Health difficulty	2	-	-	-	-	3	-
Did not feel education was worth the time	2	-	1	1	-	10	2
Needed a break	2	-	-	-	1	9	1
Did not like my teacher(s)	2	-	-	1	-	1	9
Unsure of my academic/ career goal	2	-	-	1	9	1	1
Received certificate	2	7	-	-	-	-	-
Still attending	1	-	6	1	-	-	-
Became dissatisfied with my career field	1	-	-	1	1	-	5
Program was not what I expected	1	-	-	1	-	-	6
I needed tutorial assistance	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Courses too difficult to understand	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Can't say/declined	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

The vast majority of non-returning students (72%) said visiting with a college counselor would not have deterred them from terminating their experience at the community college. That negative response came from 77% of those who graduated from the college and 72% of those who transferred to a four-year college. But 87% of the students who had only enrolled in one course to begin with were not interested in talking to a counselor.

Only 6% of the students who quit due to some dissatisfaction with the college said visiting with a counselor would have been of definite help to them; another 11% said it could possibly have helped them. But nearly eight out of ten (79%) of those particular students were not interested in a visit with a counselor at the time they decided to quit.

"Do you think a visit with a college counselor would have been helpful to you at the time you were thinking of terminating your experience at the community college?"

	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes, definitely	12%	9%	14%	8%	13%	14%
Yes, possibly	13	13	12	11	13	14
No	72	74	70	78	69	70
Can't say	4	4	3	3	6	2

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Yes, definitely	12%	13%	13%	4%	7%	9%	6%
Yes, possibly	13	6	11	5	20	15	11
No	72	77	72	87	69	72	79
Can't say	4	4	4	3	4	4	4

INTEREST IN RETURNING

One-fifth (20%) of all former community college students said they plan to enroll at the same college in the next term. Another one-third (32%) said they will likely return at a later date. Still another one-third (36%) said they would not be returning while 12% were unsure of their future plans.

"Do you plan to enroll at this same college in the future?"

	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes, next/fall term	20%	22%	19%	23%	20%	18%
Yes, at a later date	32	39	24	35	30	30
No	36	26	45	32	38	38
Undecided	12	13	12	11	12	14

There are significant differences in the responses of different kinds of students, however. Among those who graduated last year from the community college, 50% said they would not be re-enrolling.

Nearly two-thirds (62%) of those students who have transferred to a four-year college will not return to the community college.

But for the vast majority of true stop-outs -- those former students who for one reason or another stopped, albeit temporarily, their college education, answers are quite different. Fifty percent (50%) of the stop-outs who quit after one course say they will probably take another course at a later date while 9% of them plan to enroll again in the fall of 1990. Only 19% said they will not take another course while 22% were undecided about their future academic plans.

Those stop-outs who left due to work changes are quite likely to return. Thirty percent (30%) of them said they will re-enroll in the fall of 1990 and another 41% said they will be back at a later date. Only 17% of these students will not re-enroll while another 12% are undecided about the future.

Two-thirds (65%) of the stop outs who left because of personal changes in their life indicated they intend to re-enroll. Twenty-eight (28%) said they will be back in Fall of 1990 and 37% intend to enroll at a later date. One-fifth (22%) will definitely not return and 13% are undecided.

Even among those stop-outs who left due to some dissatisfaction with the college, there is majority interest in returning. Eighteen percent (18%) said they will re-enroll in the fall of this year and 42% plan to re-enroll at a later date. Only one-fourth (24%) said they do not plan to return while another 15% are undecided.

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Yes, next/fall term	20%	6%	13%	9%	30%	28%	18%
Yes, at a later date	32	28	18	50	41	37	42
No	36	50	62	19	17	22	24
Undecided	12	16	7	22	12	13	15

Whether a graduate, a transfer student, or a true stop-out, the majority (53%) of former community college students definitely would consider returning to the community college as a part-time student.

Almost one-half (45%) of the recent graduates said they would consider returning to the same college as a part-time student, 6% said they might return as a full-time student, 20% said they might return while 21% said they definitely would not return to the same community college.

One out of every ten transfer students (10%) said they still would consider returning to the community college as a full-time student and 31% said they may return as a part-time student. Another one-fifth (21%) of those transfer students said they might still return to the community college, 28% said they would not return, 10% said they returned already but in a different program while 8% said they were presently attending another college.

True stop-outs, who had originally taken only one course in the community college, still expressed interest in returning. While 3% felt they would consider returning to the same community college as a full-time student, 64% felt they may return on a part-time basis, 18% said they might return and only 4% felt they would definitely not return to the same college.

Three-fourths (78%) of the stop-outs who left due to work changes said they would consider returning to the same college as a part-time student, 5% as a full-time student, 10% said they might return while only 6% said they would definitely not return to the same college.

Among stop-outs who left for personal reasons, 62% felt they might return to the same college as a part-time student, 10% as a full-time student and another 13% are uncertain about their future status but they would consider returning to the same college.

Although 34% of the true stop-outs quit the college due to institutional reasons unacceptable to them, six out of ten (62%) said they still would consider returning to the same college as a part-time student, 5% as a full-time student, while 12% said "Maybe, it depends." Thirteen percent (13%) of these stop-outs said they would definitely not return to the same college.

"Would you consider returning to the same community college?"

	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes, as a part-time student	53%	66%	40%	57%	52%	50%
No, will not return	16	12	20	15	16	18
Maybe; it depends	15	11	19	15	14	17
Yes, as a full-time student	10	6	14	10	10	10
Attending another college now	3	2	5	3	5	2
I did return to another program	-	1	-	-	1	-
Can't say/not sure	2	3	2	1	3	3

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Yes, as a part-time student	53%	45%	31%	64%	78%	62%	62%
No, will not return	16	21	28	4	6	11	13
Maybe; it depends	15	20	21	18	10	13	12
Yes, as a full-time student	10	6	10	3	5	10	5
Attending another college now	3	5	8	2	-	-	3
I did return to another program	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Can't say/not sure	2	2	1	9	1	3	4

Former students cited a number of factors that would most influence them should they re-enroll at the same community college. Mentioned most frequently (13%) was the availability of desired courses. Other major factors include: "If my job permits it" (11%), "As long as they still live close to the college" (10%), and "If their personal goals do not change" (9%). The Table below displays all factors that would influence former students should they choose to re-enroll.

"What one factor would most influence you to re-enroll at that community college?"

	All Resp.*	Part Time*	Full Time*	Urb.*	Sub.*	Reg.*
Availability of desired courses	13%	13%	12%	16%	15%	7%
If my job changes to permit it	11	12	10	10	12	10
Location -- close to home	10	11	9	8	11	10
Personal goals	9	10	8	9	9	9
If financial help is available	8	6	10	5	7	13
Quality of the program	5	5	5	7	4	5
Quality of instructors/staff	4	4	5	3	5	5
Off-campus courses	4	4	4	2	4	6
Cost	4	4	4	6	4	4
Nothing	4	3	6	4	4	5
Time factor -- need more time	3	4	2	3	3	1
Saturday classes	2	2	2	2	3	1
Evening classes/summer courses	2	2	2	2	2	2
A Bachelor's program	1	2	1	-	2	1
Already attending	1	1	1	2	1	-
Miscellaneous influences	1	1	2	2	1	1
Can't say	24	23	24	28	19	24

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

	All Resp.*	Grad*	Tran*	One Cour*	Work Chg.*	Pers Chg.*	Inst*
Availability of desired courses	13%	16%	15%	17%	8%	9%	17%
If my job changes to permit it	11	8	6	13	18	13	9
Location -- close to home	10	11	8	11	7	10	11
Personal goals	9	11	7	12	12	10	9
If financial help is available	8	2	5	1	8	8	5
Quality of the program	5	6	8	3	4	6	3
Quality of instructors/ staff	4	4	4	5	4	8	3
Off-campus courses	4	3	3	4	6	2	5
Cost	4	2	6	1	5	4	4
Nothing	4	6	8	-	1	3	4
Time factor -- need more time	3	2	-	1	8	3	3
Saturday classes	2	2	1	2	4	2	3
Evening classes/summer courses	2	1	3	-	4	2	1
A Bachelor's program	1	2	1	1	1	2	1
Already attending	1	-	1	-	1	1	1
Miscellaneous influences	1	1	2	1	1	2	1
Can't say	24	26	25	35	22	22	27

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

HOW COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRAINING AFFECTED THEIR JOB STATUS

While the majority of former students (62%) said community college training did not make any difference in their job status, nearly four out of ten students (39%) said such training made a significant difference to them on the job. Seventeen percent (17%) said they got a new job as a result, another 12% said they got a raise while yet another 10% said they got promoted.

> "Tell me, did the education or training you received at the community college make any difference in your job status or salary?"

	All Resp.*	Part Time*	Full Time*	Urb.*	Sub.*	Reg.*
No; made no difference	62%	60%	64%	57%	67%	62%
Got a new job as a result	17	15	18	22	12	16
Got a raise	12	13	11	14	10	13
Got promoted	10	12	8	11	10	10
More knowledgeable/able to do more	2	4	1	3	3	2
Miscellaneous ways	2	2	2	1	2	2
Can't say	2	3	2	1	3	2

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

	All Resp.*	Grad*	Tran*	One Cour*	Work Chg.*	Pers Chg.*	Inst*
No; made no difference	62%	43%	78%	63%	55%	59%	67%
Got a new job as a result	17	33	11	9	17	19	9
Got a raise	12	19	5	12	19	12	11
Got promoted	10	12	5	10	14	13	10
More knowledgeable/ able to do more	2	1	2	9	2	2	5
Miscellaneous ways	2	2	1	2	2	1	2
Can't say	2	2	2	-	-	2	1

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

One-third (33%) of those who graduated said they got a new job as a result of community college training.

Those stop-outs who left due to a change in their job status also benefited from community college training in other ways. Nearly one-fifth (19%) said they got a raise as a result, 14% said they got promoted while 17% said they got a new job as a result.

One-fifth (19%) of those who quit for personal reasons said they got a new job as a result of their training in a community college, another 13% got promoted while 12% said they got a raise.

INTEREST IN A CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COLLEGE

Exactly one-half (50%) of the former, community college students said they would still like to get course information from their former college. That holds true more for former part-time students (58%) than full-time students (43%). One-fourth of the latter (26%) said they were not interested in any more information, chiefly because either they had graduated or had transferred to a four-year college.

The Table on the following page details the desired relationship.

"What kind of relationship would you like to keep with your former community college?"

	All Resp.*	Part Time*	Full Time*	Urb.*	Sub.*	Reg.*
Would still like to get course info	50%	58%	43%	53%	50%	48%
Not interested	22	19	26	22	24	21
Interested in special lectures, workshops	14	15	13	15	13	15
Fine as is; do a good job now	7	5	10	7	5	11
Open door policy -- use of	4	4	4	4	3	4
Interested in Alumni program	4	3	5	4	3	5
Would like to attend more classes	2	3	1	3	2	2
Would like to work/teach there	1	1	1	2	1	1
Miscellaneous ways	2	1	2	2	2	2
Can't say	10	8	11	9	9	11

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

	All Resp.*	Grad*	Tran*	One Cour*	Work Chg.*	Pers Chg.*	Inst*
Would still like to get course info	50%	44%	36%	59%	68%	58%	55%
Not interested	22	26	29	16	12	21	20
Interested in special lectures, workshops	14	15	14	13	21	17	11
Fine as is; do a good job now	7	7	8	5	5	6	7
Open door policy -- use of resources	4	5	5	3	3	4	4
Interested in Alumni program	4	6	4	2	3	2	2
Would like to attend more classes	2	1	3	3	3	1	3
Would like to work/ teach there	1	1	1	1	1	-	1
Miscellaneous ways	2	2	4	-	2	2	-
Can't say	10	9	11	10	7	8	9

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

It can be noted in the Table above that the majority of all of the different types of stop-outs still want to get course information from their former community college. That holds true for 59% of the former students who had come to the community college for only one course, for 68% of the stop-outs who left due to job changes, for 58% of those who left for personal reasons and even for 55% of those who left because of some dissatisfaction with the institution.

FUTURE ACADEMIC PLANS

While the majority of current community college students (60%) plan on transferring to a four-year college, only 28% of former students are planning on that; 34% are not while 29% of these former students have already transferred. They are more likely to have been full-time (38%) rather than part-time (19%) students.

Three-fourths (76%) of the former students who have transfer plans are already attending a four-year school and another 19% plan to do so in the immediate future. Even 40% of the former students who graduated from the community college have already transferred while another 22% plan to do so.

The majority of stop-outs (59%) who had previously taken only one course at the community college do not plan to transfer to a four-year school. Eighteen percent (18%) of these students have already transferred to a four-year school while another 12% hope to do so.

The majority (52%) of stop-outs who left community college due to a job change do not plan on transferring to a four-year college. While 5% of have transferred another 33% hope to do so in the future while still another 10% are undecided on their future academic plans.

Almost one-half (46%) of those former students who left the community college for personal reasons have no plans to transfer to a four-year school. Eight percent (8%) have, however, while another 36% hope to do so in the future.

The majority of stop-outs who quit the community college due to dissatisfaction with the school have no plans to transfer to a four-year college. But 13% have already done so and another 22% hope to do so in the future.

"Do you plan to transfer to a 4-year college?"

	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Already have	(--%)	29%	19%	38%	28%	32%	26%
Yes	(60)	28	27	30	33	27	25
No	(26)	34	45	24	31	32	41
Don't know/undecided	(14)	9	10	8	9	10	9

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Already have	29%	40%	76%	18%	5%	8%	13%
Yes	28	22	19	12	33	36	22
No	34	27	4	59	52	46	55
Don't know/undecided	9	10	2	12	10	10	10

The majority (53%) of current community college students hope to complete requirements for a bachelor's degree, but this is the aspiration of only 44% of former students. Yet the majority of former full-time students (58%) have that as their goal.

A bachelor's degree is the goal of the majority of former students who graduated from the community college (52%) while better than eight out of ten former students who have now transferred have their sights set on a bachelor's degree.

Attainment of a bachelor's degree is less than a major priority for most true community college stop-outs. Only 16% of those former students who had enrolled in only one course hope to achieve the four-year degree as do only 17% of those who left the community college due to dissatisfaction with the institution. One-fourth (26%) of the former students who left because of job changes still hope to achieve a bachelor's degree, as do 30% of those who left the community college for personal reasons.

"Do you plan on getting a 4-year Bachelor's degree?"

	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes, definitely	(53%)	44%	31%	58%	46%	46%	41%
Yes, hopefully	(13)	14	15	13	13	15	13
No	(20)	28	36	20	26	25	33
Already have a Bachelor's degree	(--)	4	7	2	5	5	3
Can't say/undecided	(14)	10	12	8	10	10	11

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Yes, definitely	44%	52%	83%	16%	26%	30%	17%
Yes, hopefully	14	13	7	10	14	15	15
No	28	23	4	45	39	34	46
Can't say/undecided	10	8	1	10	19	19	9

Carrying educational aspirations one step further, one-fifth (20%) of today's community college student even hope to get a Masters' degree, as do 17% of the former students. In fact, 22% of former full-time students hope to go beyond the bachelor's degree and obtain a master's degree.

Those who have the highest aspirations for the advanced degree are those former community college students who have since transferred to a four-year college. Better than one-third of them (37%) have that graduate degree as their goal.

"Do you think you will go on and get a Master's or professional degree?"

	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes, definitely	(20%)	17%	11%	22%	18%	17%	16%
Yes, hopefully	(18)	17	14	20	16	17	18
No	(37)	47	57	38	46	46	50
Already have Masters or professional degree	(--)	1	2	1	2	1	1
Can't say/undecided	(25)	18	17	20	19	20	16

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Yes, definitely	17%	23%	37%	11%	6%	9%	8%
Yes, hopefully	17	15	24	6	15	12	10
No	47	46	21	63	55	55	65
Already have Masters/	1	1	2	4	1	-	2
Can't say/undecided	18	15	16	16	24	25	15

IMPORTANT FACTORS IN SELECTING A COMMUNITY COLLEGE

This year's community college students identified four factors as being the most important in their decision to enroll in a community college. And former students -- including those who graduated, who transferred or who just quit, agreed.

The four most important factors, said both current and former students are:

* Location of the college (70% of current students said "very important"; so did 71% of former students.)
* Availability of a particular program of study (67% of current students said "very important"; so did 70% of former students.)
* Cost of attending the college (59% of current students "very important"; so did 58% of former students.)
* Variety of courses offered (58% of current students said "very important"; so did 54% of former students.)

"When you were first considering attending a community college, how important were these kinds of things . . .very important, somewhat important, or not too important:"

LOCATION OF THE COLLEGE	Stud.)	('90 Resp.	All Time	Part Time	Full Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(70%)	71%	73%	68%	72%	71%	69%
Somewhat important	(21)	19	18	19	20	20	16
Not too important	(8)	10	7	13	8	8	15
Can't say	(-)	1	1	-	-	1	1

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	71%	76%	74%	60%	77%	70%	68%
Somewhat important	19	17	17	19	16	23	18
Not too important	10	6	9	17	6	7	11
Can't say	1	1	-	4	1	-	3

AVAILABILITY OF A PARTICULAR PROGRAM OF STUDY	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(67%)	70%	72%	68%	72%	67%	71%
Somewhat important	(23)	20	17	23	19	21	21
Not too important	(9)	9	9	8	8	11	7
Can't say	(1)	1	2	1	2	1	1

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	70%	77%	64%	78%	68%	67%	72%
Somewhat important	20	18	24	11	22	22	17
Not too important	9	4	12	7	8	9	8
Can't say	1	1	-	4	2	1	3

COST OF ATTENDING COLLEGE	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(59%)	58%	53%	62%	65%	56%	53%
Somewhat important	(25)	24	26	22	19	25	28
Not too important	(16)	17	19	16	16	18	19
Can't say	(1)	1	2	-	1	1	1

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	58%	63%	59%	36%	57%	64%	42%
Somewhat important	24	22	26	28	25	22	27
Not too important	17	14	16	32	17	14	28
Can't say	1	1	-	4	1	-	3

VARIETY OF COURSES OFFERED	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(58%)	54%	56%	51%	53%	56%	52%
Somewhat important	(32)	35	31	39	34	35	36
Not too important	(9)	10	11	10	12	9	11
Can't say	(1)	1	2	-	1	1	1

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	54%	55%	56%	41%	59%	53%	46%
Somewhat important	35	37	35	31	30	36	31
Not too important	10	7	8	22	11	10	19
Can't say	1	1	1	5	-	1	5

Other factors former and current students considered somewhat important when selecting a community college included the following:

* Academic reputation of the college (41% of current students and 40% of former students said "very important"; 40% and 38% said "somewhat important").
* Availability of financial aid or scholarship (37% of current students and 35% of former students said "very important"; 25% and 19% said "somewhat important").
* Opportunity for part-time or full-time work (30% of current students and 31% of former students said "very important"; 27% and 21% said "somewhat important").
* Reputation of the faculty (32% of current students and 30% of former students said "very important"; 39% and 38% said "somewhat important").
* Type of community where college is located (27% of current students and 30% of former students said "very important"; 39% and 37% said "somewhat important").
* Graduate job placement rate (25% of current students and 27% of former students said "very important"; 29% and 20% said "somewhat important").

ACADEMIC REPUTATION OF THE COLLEGE	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(41%)	40%	36%	44%	42%	40%	37%
Somewhat important	(40)	38	39	38	36	40	39
Not too important	(17)	20	24	17	20	19	23
Can't say	(1)	1	2	1	2	1	2

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	40%	44%	40%	28%	36%	39%	32%
Somewhat important	38	37	41	37	39	34	36
Not too important	20	17	17	30	23	26	28
Can't say	1	1	1	5	1	-	4

AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL AID OR SCHOLARSHIP	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(37%)	35%	28%	42%	40%	26%	40%
Somewhat important	(25)	19	13	25	16	22	19
Not too important	(36)	43	54	32	41	49	38
Can't say	(3)	3	5	1	4	3	3

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	35%	35%	30%	21%	33%	43%	26%
Somewhat important	19	19	20	9	18	20	14
Not too important	43	42	48	59	47	35	54
Can't say	3	3	2	12	2	3	7

OPPORTUNITY FOR PART-TIME OR FULL-TIME WORK	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(30%)	31%	30%	32%	35%	29%	30%
Somewhat important	(27)	21	17	26	20	23	22
Not too important	(42)	45	50	40	43	46	47
Can't say	(2)	3	4	2	3	2	2

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	31%	29%	27%	15%	38%	39%	25%
Somewhat important	21	24	23	9	19	21	14
Not too important	45	45	48	64	40	39	53
Can't say	3	2	1	13	3	2	8

REPUTATION OF THE FACULTY	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(32%)	30%	28%	32%	31%	26%	33%
Somewhat important	(39)	38	36	40	37	41	37
Not too important	(27)	29	32	26	30	30	28
Can't say	(2)	3	4	2	3	3	3

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	30%	34%	27%	22%	30%	33%	23%
Somewhat important	38	37	44	38	37	32	37
Not too important	29	27	27	31	30	32	34
Can't say	3	2	2	9	3	3	6

TYPE OF COMMUNITY WHERE COLLEGE IS LOCATED	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(27%)	30%	28%	31%	24%	36%	29%
Somewhat important	(39)	37	34	40	39	38	34
Not too important	(33)	33	36	29	36	25	37
Can't say	(1)	1	2	-	1	2	1

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	30%	30%	29%	18%	29%	28%	26%
Somewhat important	37	33	42	38	38	39	33
Not too important	33	36	29	38	31	32	38
Can't say	1	1	-	5	2	1	4

GRADUATE JOB PLACEMENT RATE	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(25%)	27%	23%	31%	25%	27%	28%
Somewhat important	(29)	20	16	23	19	21	19
Not too important	(42)	49	55	43	50	47	50
Can't say	(4)	5	7	3	6	5	4

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	27%	26%	25%	14%	27%	31%	24%
Somewhat important	20	21	19	10	18	22	9
Not too important	49	49	54	57	51	42	55
Can't say	5	3	2	19	4	4	11

Of lesser importance:

* Student completion rate (42% of current students and 52% of former students said "not too important").
* Entrance requirements (42% of current students and 48% of former students said "not too important").
* Size of the college (60% of current students and 67% of former students said "not too important").
* Opportunity for student leadership (64% of current students and 74% of former students said "not too important").

IMPORTANCE OF STUDENT COMPLETION RATE	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(22%)	21%	18%	24%	21%	21%	22%
Somewhat important	(33)	24	20	27	23	24	24
Not too important	(42)	52	57	47	53	52	52
Can't say	(3)	3	5	2	4	4	3

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	21%	22%	21%	11%	22%	22%	15%
Somewhat important	25	27	22	15	26	30	21
Not too important	52	48	54	60	50	47	55
Can't say	3	2	2	15	3	2	9

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(17%)	20%	18%	22%	21%	21%	18%
Somewhat important	(39)	30	27	33	31	30	29
Not too important	(42)	48	51	44	46	47	50
Can't say	(2)	3	4	1	3	3	3

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	20%	19%	17%	10%	23%	22%	13%
Somewhat important	30	30	30	19	30	37	24
Not too important	48	48	52	63	44	40	57
Can't say	3	2	1	9	3	1	7

SIZE OF THE COLLEGE	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Req.
Very important	(11%)	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	11%
Somewhat important	(29)	23	23	24	20	28	23
Not too important	(60)	67	67	66	71	63	66
Can't say	(1)	1	2	-	1	1	1

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	9%	9%	8%	7%	10%	9%	10%
Somewhat important	23	28	21	12	27	27	18
Not too important	67	62	71	74	62	64	67
Can't say	1	-	-	6	1	-	4

OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENT LEADERSHIP	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Req.
Very important	(8%)	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%	4%
Somewhat important	(26)	18	13	23	16	19	20
Not too important	(64)	74	78	70	76	71	75
Can't say	(2)	3	4	2	2	4	2

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	6%	5%	4%	2%	6%	6%	4%
Somewhat important	18	20	19	7	18	17	11
Not too important	74	73	76	80	72	75	78
Can't say	3	2	1	11	3	2	7

Other considerations often used by prospective college students in consideration of a college were read to former students to learn of their importance, but only one was considered to be very important, just as it was singled out by current students:

* Facilities available (seen as "very important" by 44% of current students and 43% of former students).

Seen as somewhat important are such factors as:

* Advice of someone who attended the college (26% of current students and 22% of former students said "very important"; 40% of each group of students said "somewhat important").
* Contacts with college representatives (was seen as "very important" by 27% of current students and 20% of former students; 35% and 33% said "somewhat important").

"How important were these kinds of things to you. . .very important, somewhat important, not too important:. . ."

FACILITIES AVAILABLE	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Req.
Very important	(44%)	43%	41%	45%	47%	41%	41%
Somewhat important	(39)	36	37	36	34	39	37
Not too important	(17)	20	21	19	19	19	22
Can't say	(1)	1	2	1	1	2	1

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	43%	41%	41%	36%	43%	48%	37%
Somewhat important	36	37	41	40	36	32	40
Not too important	20	22	18	18	20	19	19
Can't say	1	1	-	5	1	1	4

ADVICE OF SOMEONE WHO ATTENDED COLLEGE	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Req.
Very important	(26%)	22%	20%	25%	24%	24%	19%
Somewhat important	(40)	40	40	40	37	43	40
Not too important	(33)	36	39	34	38	32	40
Can't say	(1)	1	2	1	1	2	1

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	22%	21%	23%	18%	22%	24%	18%
Somewhat important	40	36	42	40	41	42	40
Not too important	36	41	34	34	35	33	37
Can't say	1	1	-	7	1	1	5

CONTACT(S) WITH COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Req.
Very important	(27%)	20%	18%	22%	22%	21%	19%
Somewhat important	(35)	33	30	35	31	34	33
Not too important	(37)	45	49	42	46	43	46
Can't say	(2)	2	3	1	2	3	2

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	20%	17%	20%	10%	23%	27%	15%
Somewhat important	33	36	33	31	31	33	29
Not too important	45	46	46	52	43	38	51
Can't say	2	1	1	7	3	2	5

About one-half of the former students who were interviewed saw these things as being not too important:

* Advice of high school counselors or teachers (52% of current students and 56% of former students said this is "not too important").
* Advice of parents or relatives (50% of current students and 54% of former students said this is "not too important").
* Health and wellness programs (50% of current students and 61% of former students said this is "not too important").
* Social climate and activities at the college (47% of current students and 57% of former students said this is "not too important").
* Extracurricular activities (56% of current students and 66% of former students said this is "not too important").
* Friends attend or plan to attend the college (60% of current students and 64% of former students said this is "not too important").

ADVICE OF HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS OR TEACHERS	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(16%)	15%	12%	18%	15%	16%	14%
Somewhat important	(31)	27	25	30	28	30	25
Not too important	(52)	56	62	50	57	52	60
Can't say	(2)	2	2	1	1	2	2

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	15%	13%	16%	7%	14%	16%	10%
Somewhat important	27	25	30	13	27	29	21
Not too important	56	60	53	72	58	54	63
Can't say	2	1	1	7	1	1	6

ADVICE OF PARENTS OR RELATIVES	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(15%)	15%	11%	18%	15%	16%	13%
Somewhat important	(34)	31	28	34	34	31	28
Not too important	(50)	54	60	48	50	52	59
Can't say	(1)	1	2	-	1	1	1

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	15%	13%	17%	9%	12%	15%	11%
Somewhat important	31	33	37	17	29	34	21
Not too important	54	53	45	67	57	51	64
Can't say	1	1	-	7	1	1	4

HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(13%)	10%	10%	10%	10%	8%	12%
Somewhat important	(34)	26	23	30	25	31	23
Not too important	(50)	61	63	58	62	59	62
Can't say	(3)	3	4	2	3	3	4

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	10%	6%	9%	11%	10%	15%	10%
Somewhat important	26	28	27	20	27	25	24
Not too important	61	62	62	63	61	57	61
Can't say	3	3	2	6	3	3	5

SOCIAL CLIMATE AND ACTIVITIES AT THE COLLEGE	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(13%)	10%	8%	11%	8%	11%	10%
Somewhat important	(39)	32	27	37	33	30	32
Not too important	(47)	57	63	52	58	58	57
Can't say	(1)	1	2	-	1	1	1

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	10%	7%	13%	4%	8%	9%	7%
Somewhat important	32	34	34	24	32	33	25
Not too important	57	58	52	67	60	57	65
Can't say	1	2	-	4	1	1	3

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(11%)	9%	7%	12%	9%	9%	10%
Somewhat important	(33)	23	20	26	22	24	22
Not too important	(56)	66	71	62	68	65	66
Can't say	(1)	2	2	1	1	2	2

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	9%	6%	13%	5%	8%	9%	8%
Somewhat important	23	25	27	15	21	23	15
Not too important	66	68	59	71	70	67	71
Can't say	2	1	1	9	1	1	6

FRIENDS ATTEND OR PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(11%)	8%	8%	9%	9%	7%	10%
Somewhat important	(28)	27	23	30	25	29	26
Not too important	(60)	64	68	60	66	64	64
Can't say	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	8%	7%	10%	10%	8%	8%	8%
Somewhat important	27	26	31	16	25	30	22
Not too important	64	66	59	69	66	61	67
Can't say	1	1	-	5	1	1	4

Of least importance:

* Racial/ethnic makeup of the college (62% of current students and 71% of former students say this is "not too important").
* Type of housing available (74% of current students and 81% of former students said this is "not too important").
* Male/female ratio of the student body (70% of current students and 80% of former students said this is "not too important").
* Sports opportunities (78% of current students and 83% of former students said this is "not too important").

RACIAL/ETHNIC MAKEUP OF THE COLLEGE	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(10%)	7%	8%	7%	8%	9%	5%
Somewhat important	(26)	21	18	24	25	20	18
Not too important	(62)	71	73	69	67	69	75
Can't say	(1)	1	2	1	1	2	2

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	7%	5%	7%	5%	7%	9%	7%
Somewhat important	21	19	24	21	18	21	18
Not too important	71	75	69	69	74	68	72
Can't say	1	1	-	4	1	1	4

TYPE OF HOUSING AVAILABLE	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(8%)	6%	5%	6%	5%	5%	7%
Somewhat important	(13)	10	8	12	9	9	12
Not too important	(74)	81	82	80	83	82	78
Can't say	(5)	4	5	2	4	4	3

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	6%	5%	5%	7%	7%	6%	9%
Somewhat important	10	7	12	6	10	11	8
Not too important	81	86	81	78	80	79	77
Can't say	4	2	3	9	3	4	7

MALE/FEMALE RATIO OF STUDENT BODY	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(7%)	4%	3%	5%	4%	6%	4%
Somewhat important	(22)	15	11	18	14	16	14
Not too important	(70)	80	84	75	81	77	81
Can't say	(1)	1	2	1	1	2	2

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	4%	3%	5%	3%	4%	6%	3%
Somewhat important	15	16	22	10	11	15	9
Not too important	80	80	73	82	85	78	83
Can't say	1	2	1	5	1	-	4

SPORTS OPPORTUNITIES	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(5%)	4%	3%	5%	4%	3%	5%
Somewhat important	(16)	12	8	16	12	12	12
Not too important	(78)	83	86	79	82	84	82
Can't say	(1)	2	3	1	2	2	2

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	4%	1%	5%	3%	3%	3%	4%
Somewhat important	12	10	14	5	11	13	8
Not too important	83	87	81	84	83	83	83
Can't say	2	2	1	7	2	1	6

IMPORTANCE OF THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE

While the majority (54%) of current community college students say getting an Associate degree is very important, former students feel much less strongly about such importance. Forty-two percent (42%) believe it is very important, another 22% say it is somewhat important, but one-third of them (33%) believe an Associate degree is not that important.

Those who attach the most importance, among all former students, are those students who already completed graduation requirements from a community college. Two-thirds (64%) of these former students believe an Associate degree is very important because, as was evident later, one-half of them already earned such a degree.

But only one-third (32%) of the former students who have since transferred to a four-year college feel an Associate degree is very important.

And those former students who came to a community college only to take one particular course see little importance in eventually earning such a degree. Only 14% of them believe this degree to be very important.

While the plurality of true stop-outs who quit for either work or personal reasons believe an Associate degree is very important, only 29% of those who quit the college for the reason they disliked the institution say an Associate degree is very important.

"How important is getting an Associate degree from the community college? Is that very important, somewhat important, or not too important?"

	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(54%)	42%	39%	46%	42%	37%	47%
Somewhat important	(20)	22	23	21	21	27	18
Not too important	(23)	33	34	32	32	34	33
Can't say	(3)	3	4	1	5	2	2

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very important	42%	64%	32%	14%	42%	41%	29%
Somewhat important	22	19	18	13	27	28	16
Not too important	33	15	48	62	30	30	48
Can't say	3	2	2	12	1	1	7

Former students who attach a great deal of importance to the Associate degree cite the same reasons as current students for reasons the degree is very important to them. Those primary reasons include the belief that "it shows you can complete a goal" (29%), it "opens up job opportunities" (24%), or it "shows you have a goal" (17%).

"(IF "VERY" OR "SOMEWHAT") What is so important about an Associate degree?"

	74% of '90 Stud.*	64% of All Resp.*	62% of Part Time*	67% of Full Time*	63% of Urb.*	64% of Sub.*	65% of Reg.*
Shows you can complete a goal	37%	29%	29%	30%	28%	28%	33%
Opens up job opportunities	18%	24	25	23	27	23	22
It shows you have a goal	18	17	16	17	17	16	17
It's easier; does not take as long as a 4-year degree	20	15	17	12	12	16	16
Helps to transfer to a 4-year college/ halfway to goal	5	15	11	18	19	13	13
Important if you cannot go for a 4-year degree	9	13	14	13	10	16	13
Personal satisfaction	-	2	3	-	1	2	2
Miscellaneous reasons	2	2	2	2	1	3	2
Can't say	3	5	6	5	8	4	4

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

	64% of All Resp.*	83% of Grad*	50% of Tran*	27% of One Cour*	69% of Work Chg.*	69% of Pers Chg.*	45% of Inst*
Shows you can complete a goal	29%	29%	28%	40%	23%	29%	29%
Opens up job opportunities	24%	23%	17%	28%	32%	21%	26%
It shows you have a goal	17	14	14	12	18	18	21
It's easier; does not take as long as a 4-year degree	15	19	17	12	13	14	11
Helps to transfer to a 4-year college/ halfway to goal	15	18	24	8	10	15	7
Important if you cannot go for a 4-year degree	13	13	16	4	17	18	11
Personal satisfaction	2	2	1	-	2	-	2
Miscellaneous reasons	2	2	1	4	3	4	3
Can't say	5	5	6	4	3	6	5

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

While seven out of ten (72%) current community college students say they hope to complete the requirements for the Associate degree, former students are not so inclined. Only 48% of those formerly enrolled had or have the Associate degree as a personal goal.

It was a goal for the majority (57%) of former students who have already graduated, and it is still a goal for the majority of stop-outs who quit due to work changes (58%) or those who quit for personal reasons (54%). But the Associate degree is not a goal (47%) for those quit the community college due to dissatisfaction with the institution.

"Do you plan to complete requirements for an Associate degree from the community college?"

	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes	(72%)	48%	46%	49%	49%	47%	48%
No	(22)	34	35	34	33	35	35
Already have an Associate degree	(--)	11	9	12	12	11	9
Can't say/undecided	(6)	8	11	5	7	8	9

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Yes	48%	57%	28%	17%	58%	54%	36%
No	34	11	57	57	27	28	47
Already have an Associate degree	11	31	13	5	3	5	4
Can't say/undecided	8	1	2	20	12	13	13

HOW FORMER STUDENTS RATE COLLEGE SERVICES

The majority of former community college students rated nine (9) out of 17 college services as "excellent" or "good".

Highest ratings went to library services and campus safety, the same two singled out for highest ratings by current students this year.

* Library services (81% of current students and 77% of former students rated these as "good" to "excellent").
* Campus safety (81% of current students and 77% of former students rated this as "good" to "excellent").
* Bookstore (74% of current students and 73% of former students rated this as "good" to "excellent").

"How would you rate the following services at your former community college. . .excellent, good, fair, or poor?"

LIBRARY SERVICES	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(37%)	34%	32%	37%	38%	35%	30%
Good	(44)	43	40	46	39	46	45
Fair	(8)	8	6	10	7	6	11
Poor	(2)	1	1	1	2	1	1
N/A Can't say	(9)	14	21	6	15	13	14

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	34%	39%	36%	12%	36%	36%	22%
Good	43	44	45	38	45	46	40
Fair	8	8	11	1	5	6	5
Poor	1	1	1	1	-	-	3
N/A Can't say	14	8	8	48	14	12	31

CAMPUS SAFETY	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(26%)	22%	21%	24%	22%	24%	21%
Good	(55)	55	55	54	56	54	54
Fair	(11)	13	11	15	13	12	14
Poor	(3)	2	2	3	3	2	2
N/A Can't say	(5)	8	12	5	7	8	10

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	22%	22%	22%	9%	26%	29%	13%
Good	55	58	60	55	55	52	54
Fair	13	12	12	13	10	12	14
Poor	2	3	1	1	-	2	3
N/A Can't say	8	4	5	22	9	6	15

BOOKSTORE	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(21%)	19%	18%	20%	18%	23%	15%
Good	(53)	54	54	53	54	55	52
Fair	(17)	18	16	20	19	14	20
Poor	(5)	4	3	6	3	3	7
N/A Can't say	(3)	6	10	2	7	5	6

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	19%	20%	16%	7%	19%	22%	14%
Good	54	52	57	52	56	56	51
Fair	18	16	19	7	20	18	14
Poor	4	7	5	3	2	2	4
N/A Can't say	6	4	3	30	3	3	18

Other services rated very highly included:

* Computer labs/facilities (68% of current students and 64% of former students rated these "good" to "excellent").
* Course selection advisement (66% of current students and 64% of former students rated this as "good" to "excellent").
* Study rooms/areas (62% of current students and 61% of former students rated these as "good" to "excellent").
* New student orientation (63% of current students and 61% of former students rated this as "good" to "excellent").

COMPUTER LABS/ FACILITIES	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(33%)	27%	24%	30%	31%	25%	25%
Good	(35)	37	34	41	34	41	36
Fair	(9)	8	6	9	5	8	10
Poor	(2)	3	3	2	3	2	3
N/A Can't say	(21)	26	34	18	27	24	27

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	27%	32%	24%	18%	31%	30%	20%
Good	37	38	45	27	33	37	33
Fair	8	8	9	7	6	4	6
Poor	3	3	2	-	2	4	2
N/A Can't say	26	19	20	48	28	24	38

COURSE SELECTION ADVISEMENT	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(22%)	19%	18%	20%	19%	20%	19%
Good	(44)	45	43	46	43	44	48
Fair	(20)	18	17	20	19	21	16
Poor	(7)	8	7	9	8	9	8
N/A Can't say	(7)	10	15	5	13	7	10

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	19%	20%	18%	10%	20%	21%	15%
Good	45	43	48	37	44	50	39
Fair	18	18	20	12	19	17	14
Poor	8	10	6	2	9	6	9
N/A Can't say	10	8	7	39	8	6	23

STUDY ROOMS/AREAS	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(21%)	20%	17%	22%	19%	22%	18%
Good	(41)	41	39	44	41	41	42
Fair	(14)	11	7	15	11	10	12
Poor	(5)	4	4	5	5	3	5
N/A Can't say	(19)	24	34	14	24	24	24

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	20%	20%	21%	7%	21%	21%	12%
Good	41	40	45	31	40	44	34
Fair	11	14	12	5	8	11	8
Poor	4	6	5	2	4	3	4
N/A Can't say	24	20	17	54	28	21	42

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(22%)	19%	17%	21%	19%	17%	20%
Good	(41)	42	38	47	41	41	45
Fair	(16)	18	15	20	19	18	16
Poor	(5)	5	5	5	3	8	4
N/A Can't say	(16)	17	26	8	18	17	16

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	19%	21%	16%	5%	22%	23%	12%
Good	42	43	45	33	44	41	37
Fair	18	21	21	7	15	20	10
Poor	5	4	4	1	5	7	7
N/A Can't say	17	11	14	53	15	10	35

Parking availability drew the highest percentage of "poor" ratings, from 23% of current students and 18% of former students.

PARKING AVAILABILITY	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(18%)	22%	22%	22%	16%	25%	25%
Good	(36)	38	39	37	28	43	42
Fair	(22)	20	18	21	25	19	16
Poor	(23)	18	17	19	27	11	15
N/A Can't say	(2)	3	5	1	4	3	2

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	22%	21%	24%	14%	22%	24%	19%
Good	38	39	39	49	39	33	42
Fair	20	19	21	16	17	21	16
Poor	18	19	14	13	18	19	16
N/A Can't say	3	2	2	9	2	3	6

Ratings for all other types of college services were fairly good but not as high as those previously mentioned due to high percentages of "don't know" responses from former students who had no contact with some of these types of services.

Those services are shown in the following Tables:

HANDICAPPED ACCESS	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(24%)	17%	16%	19%	16%	19%	18%
Good	(47)	40	33	46	36	39	44
Fair	(8)	6	6	7	6	6	8
Poor	(4)	3	3	3	3	2	4
N/A Can't say	(18)	34	43	25	40	35	28

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	17%	20%	18%	10%	17%	17%	14%
Good	40	42	43	37	33	37	35
Fair	6	6	7	1	8	9	3
Poor	3	2	2	3	4	3	4
N/A Can't say	34	29	29	49	39	34	44

READING LABS	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(16%)	14%	13%	14%	16%	14%	12%
Good	(35)	33	27	39	28	37	34
Fair	(9)	8	5	12	7	9	9
Poor	(1)	2	1	2	1	2	2
N/A Can't say	(39)	44	55	33	49	39	44

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	14%	15%	11%	5%	17%	18%	7%
Good	33	33	34	15	31	36	26
Fair	8	8	11	5	4	6	6
Poor	2	3	2	1	1	1	2
N/A Can't say	44	41	41	73	47	39	60

FINANCIAL AID ASSISTANCE	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(28%)	20%	14%	26%	19%	13%	29%
Good	(30)	27	23	31	25	27	29
Fair	(11)	10	8	13	11	11	9
Poor	(5)	4	4	5	4	5	4
N/A Can't say	(27)	38	52	25	42	44	30

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	20%	23%	16%	9%	20%	28%	13%
Good	27	30	29	16	28	28	18
Fair	10	11	12	3	9	11	5
Poor	4	4	5	1	3	4	4
N/A Can't say	38	33	38	71	40	29	60

FOOD SERVICE	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(12%)	9%	7%	11%	7%	11%	9%
Good	(40)	38	34	43	42	38	35
Fair	(19)	19	15	22	16	19	21
Poor	(5)	5	4	6	6	4	6
N/A Can't say	(24)	29	40	18	30	28	30

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	9%	10%	9%	2%	11%	12%	5%
Good	38	44	45	28	33	34	29
Fair	19	21	19	12	17	20	13
Poor	5	7	6	3	1	3	4
N/A Can't say	29	18	21	55	39	31	49

TUTORIAL HELP	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(27%)	18%	16%	21%	22%	13%	19%
Good	(32)	28	24	33	26	32	27
Fair	(12)	12	7	16	9	13	14
Poor	(3)	4	5	4	5	7	2
N/A Can't say	(27)	37	48	26	39	36	38

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	18%	21%	18%	11%	20%	23%	12%
Good	28	32	36	17	26	28	21
Fair	12	12	12	7	10	13	9
Poor	4	5	4	2	4	3	5
N/A Can't say	37	31	30	63	41	34	53

TYPING ROOMS	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(16%)	11%	10%	13%	12%	11%	11%
Good	(31)	30	23	37	25	29	36
Fair	(10)	8	7	10	7	9	9
Poor	(2)	3	2	4	4	3	1
N/A Can't say	(42)	48	59	36	52	48	43

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	11%	13%	10%	1%	13%	14%	6%
Good	30	34	30	15	31	34	21
Fair	8	11	12	5	2	6	6
Poor	3	3	4	-	1	2	2
N/A Can't say	48	40	45	79	53	44	65

STUDENT ACTIVITIES	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(11%)	9%	7%	10%	9%	9%	8%
Good	(38)	32	26	37	31	30	34
Fair	(16)	17	13	22	14	18	21
Poor	(4)	3	2	4	3	3	3
N/A Can't say	(31)	39	52	27	44	41	34

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	9%	9%	10%	1%	9%	10%	6%
Good	32	40	36	22	25	30	20
Fair	17	17	23	5	13	17	9
Poor	3	3	4	-	1	3	2
N/A Can't say	39	31	27	71	51	40	63

JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(14%)	11%	10%	11%	10%	12%	10%
Good	(29)	23	18	28	22	24	22
Fair	(11)	15	11	20	13	14	20
Poor	(3)	5	4	5	3	4	7
N/A Can't say	(43)	47	59	35	52	47	42

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	11%	9%	8%	4%	13%	14%	9%
Good	23	32	24	15	19	26	15
Fair	15	17	21	7	11	12	9
Poor	5	6	4	1	5	5	6
N/A Can't say	47	37	43	72	53	43	61

CHILD CARE PROVISIONS	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(7%)	5%	3%	7%	5%	7%	4%
Good	(14)	10	8	12	9	14	8
Fair	(5)	5	3	8	3	5	8
Poor	(5)	5	5	6	6	3	8
N/A Can't say	(69)	74	81	68	78	72	73

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	5%	6%	5%	1%	6%	6%	3%
Good	10	12	10	4	8	11	8
Fair	5	4	5	1	4	5	3
Poor	5	7	6	2	6	7	4
N/A Can't say	74	70	74	91	76	71	82

OTHER OPINIONS ABOUT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Former community college students, even those who left due to some dissatisfaction with the institution, still believe the college they used to attend had a high quality program in their subject area, has a large variety of courses and programs to offer, and has high quality academic programs.

Further, the majority of these former students also believe their community college has an "open door" policy, provided educational opportunities regardless of the students's academic record and does not have too many required courses.

In that light, former students' opinions almost exactly parallel the opinions on those matters of currently enrolled students.

Nine out of ten former students agree -- one-fourth of them very strongly, that their community college has a high quality program in their subject area. One-third of those former students who now have graduated agree with that very strongly.

"Tell me, when it comes to your former community college, to you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with. . ."

A HIGH-QUALITY PROGRAM IN MY SUBJECT AREA	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Strongly agree	(27%)	25%	23%	26%	28%	24%	21%
Agree	(59)	63	63	62	59	61	68
Disagree	(10)	8	8	9	8	9	9
Strongly disagree	(1)	1	1	1	-	2	1
Can't say	(3)	4	5	2	5	4	2

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Strongly agree	25%	34%	21%	14%	25%	25%	19%
Agree	63	58	63	55	66	63	58
Disagree	8	7	10	9	7	9	10
Strongly disagree	1	-	1	2	-	1	2
Can't say	4	1	5	20	1	2	10

And nine out of ten former students (90%) agree with nine out of ten current students (90%) that the community college has a large variety of programs and courses to offer.

A LARGE VARIETY OF COURSES AND PROGRAMS OFFERED	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Strongly agree	(24%)	24%	24%	25%	29%	28%	17%
Agree	(66)	66	64	68	66	64	69
Disagree	(8)	8	8	7	3	7	12
Strongly disagree	(-)	-	1	-	-	-	1
Can't say	(1)	1	2	1	2	1	21

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Strongly agree	24%	28%	27%	13%	27%	28%	17%
Agree	66	64	65	76	67	61	68
Disagree	8	6	7	3	6	11	10
Strongly disagree	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Can't say	1	1	-	9	-	-	5

An even higher percentage agree that the community college has, overall, high quality academic programs.

THE COLLEGE HAS HIGH-QUALITY ACADEMIC PROGRAMS	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Strongly agree	(21%)	19%	18%	20%	20%	20%	19%
Agree	(73)	74	72	76	75	73	76
Disagree	(4)	4	5	3	4	5	4
Strongly disagree	(-)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Can't say	(-)	3	5	1	2	3	2

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Strongly agree	19%	25%	22%	10%	19%	17%	15%
Agree	74	69	75	71	78	79	69
Disagree	4	4	2	3	2	3	8
Strongly disagree	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Can't say	3	1	1	16	2	1	9

Seven out of ten former students also agree their former college has an "open door" policy while 77% agree the college provides educational opportunities regardless of a student's academic record.

MY COLLEGE HAS AN "OPEN DOOR" POLICY	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Strongly agree	(18%)	17%	13%	20%	20%	15%	15%
Agree	(54)	53	52	54	45	55	58
Disagree	(12)	13	11	15	12	15	12
Strongly disagree	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	-
Can't say	(16)	17	23	11	21	14	16

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Strongly agree	17%	22%	23%	11%	14%	17%	11%
Agree	53	51	49	46	55	55	52
Disagree	13	12	12	9	13	15	8
Strongly disagree	1	2	1	-	1	1	-
Can't say	17	14	16	35	17	12	30

COLLEGE PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES REGARDLESS OF ACADEMIC RECORD	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Strongly agree	(17%)	16%	14%	18%	17%	17%	14%
Agree	(63)	61	58	64	57	63	64
Disagree	(8)	7	6	8	7	8	7
Strongly disagree	(-)	1	1	-	1	1	1
Can't say	(13)	16	22	10	19	12	15

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Strongly agree	16%	19%	22%	9%	17%	15%	13%
Agree	61	59	58	54	60	65	57
Disagree	7	8	6	3	7	7	4
Strongly disagree	1	1	-	-	1	1	-

At the same time, seven out of every ten former students agreed with current students by disagreeing with the notion that the community college has too many required courses.

MY COLLEGE HAS TOO MANY REQUIRED COURSES	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Strongly agree	(4%)	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Agree	(16)	13	13	13	16	10	12
Disagree	(70)	72	68	76	67	76	73
Strongly disagree	(5)	6	6	7	7	5	6
Can't say	(5)	7	12	3	8	7	7

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Strongly agree	2%	2%	1%	-%	2%	3%	2%
Agree	13	15	8	9	13	15	9
Disagree	72	73	76	56	73	72	65
Strongly disagree	6	8	9	3	6	7	3
Can't say	7	3	5	32	6	3	21

OPINIONS ABOUT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACULTY

This year, current community college students gave significant high ratings to both full-time and part-time faculty of the community colleges. And the former students gave almost identical high ratings.

For example, 86% of current students and 84% of former students rated full-time faculty as "excellent" or "good" on the manner in which they present their material.

Former students who have since graduated or transferred, gave the highest ratings, as can be noted in the second Table below.

"How would you rate the full-time faculty on the manner in which they present their subject material?"

	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(39%)	38%	33%	42%	35%	34%	45%
Good	(47)	46	45	46	46	48	43
Fair	(7)	8	8	9	8	9	8
Poor	(1)	2	2	1	1	3	1
Can't say	(6)	7	12	1	10	7	4

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	38%	41%	38%	29%	38%	37%	31%
Good	46	47	49	41	44	43	42
Fair	8	7	8	3	7	11	8
Poor	2	2	-	-	2	2	2
Can't say	7	3	4	27	9	6	17

Full-time faculty also drew high ratings for the interest they take in individual students. Eighty-one percent (81%) of current students and 77% of former students rated them as "excellent" or "good" for this interest. Again, highest ratings were given by those students who have since graduated or transferred to a four-year college.

"How would you rate the full-time faculty on the interest they take in individual students?"

	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(40%)	39%	36%	42%	37%	33%	46%
Good	(41)	38	36	41	36	42	37
Fair	(11)	13	13	13	15	14	10
Poor	(3)	3	4	3	3	5	3
Can't say	(5)	7	12	2	10	6	4

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	39%	45%	42%	33%	36%	35%	33%
Good	38	39	42	34	39	37	32
Fair	13	9	11	6	13	20	11
Poor	3	3	1	2	3	3	8
Can't say	7	4	4	24	8	5	16

Current and former students' ratings of full-time faculty nudged even slightly higher for their willingness to meet with students when needed. Again, graduates or transferred students expressed the highest ratings.

"How would you rate the full-time faculty on their willingness to meet with students when needed?"

	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(48%)	44%	38%	50%	43%	37%	51%
Good	(36)	38	36	39	36	44	34
Fair	(9)	8	9	7	8	7	9
Poor	(1)	3	5	2	3	5	3
Can't say	(6)	7	13	2	10	7	4

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	44%	46%	48%	35%	46%	44%	38%
Good	38	42	39	31	34	36	30
Fair	8	5	6	5	8	11	8
Poor	3	2	2	1	4	4	7
Can't say	7	4	5	28	8	5	18

Ratings for part-time community college faculty members were also very high, from both current and former students, but not quite as high as for full-time faculty. The only difference lies in the higher percentage of "can't say" responses from former students who apparently had little contact with part-time instructors in the community college.

Still, two-thirds (66%) of former students and 73% of current students rated part-time faculty "excellent" or "good" on the manner in which they present their subject material.

"How would you rate the part-time faculty members on the manner in which they present their subject material?"

	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(26%)	26%	24%	28%	27%	22%	29%
Good	(47)	40	39	41	39	41	40
Fair	(12)	11	11	11	13	10	10
Poor	(3)	2	2	2	1	4	2
Can't say	(12)	21	24	18	20	24	20

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	26%	28%	25%	22%	29%	27%	23%
Good	40	44	45	32	36	35	36
Fair	11	11	13	7	10	10	9
Poor	2	2	2	1	2	4	2
Can't say	21	14	15	37	22	24	30

Former students also rated part-time faculty very highly, both on the interest they take in individual students and on their willingness to meet with students when needed. Again, highest ratings were expressed by those students who have since graduated or have transferred to a four-year institution.

"How would you rate the part-time faculty members on the interest they take in individual students?"

	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(29%)	27%	24%	30%	30%	20%	30%
Good	(43)	37	37	37	33	39	39
Fair	(13)	12	12	13	16	12	9
Poor	(3)	3	3	2	2	5	2
Can't say	(12)	21	24	18	20	24	20

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	27%	30%	29%	19%	28%	27%	22%
Good	37	41	40	36	36	29	32
Fair	12	13	13	7	12	16	12
Poor	3	1	3	2	2	4	4
Can't say	21	14	16	35	22	24	30

"How would you rate the part-time faculty members on their willingness to meet with students when needed?"

	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(32%)	29%	27%	31%	33%	23%	32%
Good	(38)	35	32	38	33	37	35
Fair	(14)	11	12	10	12	12	10
Poor	(4)	3	4	3	2	5	3
Can't say	(12)	22	25	18	21	24	21

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Excellent	29%	31%	31%	23%	30%	30%	26%
Good	35	42	37	30	32	28	28
Fair	11	9	12	9	13	14	12
Poor	3	3	2	1	3	4	4
Can't say	22	15	17	37	22	24	31

Praise for faculty members continued when former students agreed just as strongly with current students that it is or was very easy to get help from a faculty member when that help was needed. The majority (58%) of current students confirmed that as did 61% of former students. Nearly seven out of ten (68%) former students who have since graduated were highest in praise, saying it was very easy to get help from a community college faculty member.

But even the true stop-outs -- those who did not return to the community college, were highly complimentary to faculty willingness to provide help when students needed it. The majority of former students who only took one course (55%) said that, as did 60% of those who quit due to a change in their job, 57% who quit for some personal reason as well as 55% of those who quit due to dissatisfaction with the institution.

"When you felt you needed help from a faculty member, how easy was it to get that help -- very easy, somewhat easy, somewhat difficult, or very difficult?"

	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very easy	(58%)	61%	58%	65%	59%	56%	69%
Somewhat easy	(34)	27	29	26	29	31	21
Somewhat difficult	(5)	7	6	7	7	7	5
Very difficult	(1)	2	3	1	1	3	2
Can't say/have not needed	(2)	3	5	2	4	4	3

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very easy	61%	68%	61%	55%	60%	57%	55%
Somewhat easy	27	24	32	22	28	28	23
Somewhat difficult	7	6	4	9	8	10	8
Very difficult	2	1	1	1	1	2	5
Can't say/have not needed	3	2	2	13	3	2	8

OPINIONS ABOUT TUITION COSTS AND FEES

In two successive statewide surveys of community college students, a solid majority of those currently enrolled students have said the cost of tuition at a community college is very reasonable. In 1988, 60% of the students said that as well as 58% in 1990.

Former students -- including true stop-outs, agreed even more strongly. Sixty-two percent (62%) said tuition is very reasonable.

Two-thirds (67%) of former students who have since graduated held the same opinion. And those who have a new comparative base for tuition costs -- those who have since transferred to a four-year college, were even more emphatic about it. Seventy-four percent (74%) said community college tuition was very reasonable.

Only 4% of former students felt such tuition was unreasonable. Students who left due to dissatisfaction with the institution were the most critical of such costs, but only 7% of this group held that opinion.

"How reasonable was the cost of tuition at the community college you attended? Is it very reasonable, somewhat reasonable, or unreasonable?"

	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very reasonable	(58%)	62%	58%	66%	62%	57%	66%
Somewhat reasonable	(36)	33	35	30	31	37	29
Unreasonable	(4)	4	4	3	5	4	3
Can't say	(2)	2	3	1	2	3	2

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very reasonable	62%	67%	74%	59%	56%	56%	57%
Somewhat reasonable	33	29	25	28	36	38	32
Unreasonable	4	3	-	6	4	3	7
Can't say	2	1	-	7	5	3	5

Nine out of ten current students and former students hold the opinion that they are or were "getting their money's worth" from the community college.

"Do you think you were getting your money's worth?"

	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes	(91%)	93%	93%	93%	93%	92%	94%
No	(6)	5	6	5	5	6	6
Can't say	(3)	2	2	2	2	3	1

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Yes	93%	97%	97%	95%	93%	92%	86%
No	5	2	2	5	5	6	11
Can't say	2	1	1	-	2	2	3

Tuition at most community colleges only covers about 30% of the total per student cost to the college, but neither the current student nor the former student knows that. Only 6% of current students and 7% of former students came anywhere close when they said they felt tuition covered less than one-half of the cost of being enrolled in college. Almost three out of every ten former students (29%) said they had no idea, while the balance made varying estimates.

One in ten former students (9%) felt tuition covered all of the costs of college, another 33% guessed at "most of the costs" while another 21% estimated that tuition covers about one-half of the costs involved in a college education for one year.

"Based on what you know, how much of the cost of being enrolled in college is covered by tuition?"

	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
All of it	(16%)	9%	9%	10%	11%	10%	7%
Most of it	(35)	33	28	39	33	32	35
About one-half of it	(17)	21	22	20	21	20	24
Less than one-half	(6)	7	9	5	8	6	7
Other	(-)	1	1	1	-	1	1
Can't say	(26)	29	31	26	28	31	27

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
All of it	9%	11%	8%	5%	10%	14%	8%
Most of it	33	35	38	27	30	32	28
About one-half of it	21	22	23	26	22	15	22
Less than one-half	7	7	7	9	6	6	10
Other	1	-	-	1	1	-	1
Can't say	29	25	23	33	33	33	31

Former students substantially agreed with current students that fees charged by the colleges are fairly reasonable.

Eight-six percent (86%) of former students said registration fees are reasonable and only 6% disagreed.

"Let me ask you about the different fees that are charged by some community colleges. How reasonable are each of these -- very reasonable, somewhat reasonable, or reasonable?"

REGISTRATION FEES	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very reasonable	(42%)	37%	38%	36%	40%	31%	40%
Somewhat reasonable	(47)	49	46	52	44	56	48
Unreasonable	(7)	6	6	6	5	8	6
Not applicable	(4)	8	9	6	11	7	5

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very reasonable	37%	39%	41%	29%	42%	41%	32%
Somewhat reasonable	49	48	46	46	45	48	48
Unreasonable	6	7	7	6	6	5	7
Not applicable	8	6	6	19	7	6	13

Seven out of ten (71%) former students felt lab fees were reasonable while only 5% disagreed.

LAB FEES	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very reasonable	(34%)	30%	29%	31%	33%	24%	33%
Somewhat reasonable	(44)	41	37	46	40	44	40
Unreasonable	(7)	5	4	6	5	8	3
Not applicable	(16)	24	31	17	23	25	24

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very reasonable	30%	39%	34%	16%	28%	26%	20%
Somewhat reasonable	41	42	43	28	40	41	34
Unreasonable	5	7	5	2	6	6	4
Not applicable	24	12	18	54	26	26	42

While 40% of former students were unable to judge an "activity fee", one-fifth (19%) said those were very reasonable, 33% said somewhat reasonable and only 9% unreasonable. It can be noted in the Tables below that those opinions are very similar to those of current students this year.

ACTIVITY FEE	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very reasonable	(22%)	19%	17%	21%	24%	11%	21%
Somewhat reasonable	(35)	33	28	38	31	37	30
Unreasonable	(10)	9	8	10	8	9	9
Not applicable	(34)	40	48	33	37	43	40

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very reasonable	19%	22%	20%	9%	15%	18%	13%
Somewhat reasonable	33	34	38	24	33	35	26
Unreasonable	9	12	10	3	6	8	6
Not applicable	40	32	32	64	45	39	55

One-half of the former students interviewed (50%) were unable to judge a physical education fee, nor were 43% of current students. Still, only 5% of former students and 9% of current students said such fees were or are unreasonable.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION FEE	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very reasonable	(18%)	16%	14%	19%	18%	15%	16%
Somewhat reasonable	(31)	28	23	33	26	31	27
Unreasonable	(9)	5	4	7	4	6	6
Not applicable	(43)	50	60	41	52	48	51

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very reasonable	16%	21%	19%	6%	12%	17%	10%
Somewhat reasonable	28	33	37	19	25	27	23
Unreasonable	5	6	5	2	6	5	5
Not applicable	50	40	38	72	56	51	63

And the vast majority of former students had no opinions to offer, nor did 75% of current students, on any other possible fees charged by the community colleges.

OTHER FEES	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very reasonable	(6%)	3%	4%	3%	2%	4%	4%
Somewhat reasonable	(14)	8	9	7	5	11	8
Unreasonable	(6)	3	3	2	3	4	2
Not applicable	(75)	86	84	88	90	82	87

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very reasonable	3%	4%	4%	1%	2%	2%	2%
Somewhat reasonable	8	7	10	2	11	11	5
Unreasonable	3	4	2	1	2	3	3
Not applicable	86	84	85	96	84	84	90

But former students joined current students in protesting the costs of books. Two-thirds (65%) of former students said they felt book fees were unreasonable and 68% of current students agreed. Those former students who protested most about book fees were those stop-outs who left due to changes in their jobs (71%) or those who left due to some dissatisfaction with the institution (72%).

BOOK FEES	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very reasonable	(5%)	7%	8%	5%	3%	11%	5%
Somewhat reasonable	(18)	28	31	25	23	29	31
Unreasonable	(68)	65	61	68	74	60	62
Not applicable	(9)	1	-	2	-	-	2

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Very reasonable	7%	13%	-%	13%	7%	14%	6%
Somewhat reasonable	28	21	32	38	21	31	22
Unreasonable	65	67	64	50	71	55	72
Not applicable	1	-	4	-	-	-	-

SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Closing questions in the interview with former students confirmed the fact that apparently former students are no different than current students. If they had it to do all over again, the vast majority (84%) of former students would still enroll in a community college. Only 8% said they would not.

Eighty-six percent (86%) of those who graduated from the community college said they would do it again. So did 80% of those who have since transferred to a four-year school.

Among the true stop-outs -- those who quit temporarily, at least, agreement is found. Eighty-six percent (86%) of those who quit due to job changes and 86% of those who had only enrolled for one course said they would do it again. So did 79% of those who quit for personal reasons. And even 83% of those who quite due to some dissatisfaction with the institution said, if they had it to do over again, they would enroll in a community college.

"If you had to do it all over again, would you enroll in a community college?"

	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes, definitely	(88%)	84%	86%	82%	86%	80%	85%
Yes, possibly	(5)	6	6	7	5	8	6
No	(6)	8	7	10	8	11	7
Can't say/depends	(2)	2	1	2	2	2	2

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Yes, definitely	84%	86%	80%	86%	86%	79%	83%
Yes, possibly	6	5	10	7	4	9	6
No	8	7	10	3	8	11	9
Can't say/depends	2	1	1	3	2	1	2

"(IF "NO") May I ask why not?"

	6% of '90 Stud.	8% of All Resp.	7% of Part Time	10% of Full Time	8% of Urb.	11% of Sub.	7% of Reg.
Get done quicker at a 4-year college	55%	56%	66%	50%	53%	64%	48%
Not what I expected/ don't like it/ wasn't happy	25	21	20	22	23	24	14
Transfer of credits is a hassle	--	15	12	17	10	7	31
Miscellaneous reasons	18	7	7	7	7	2	14
Can't say	6	8	2	12	17	5	3

	8% of All Resp.	7% of Grad	10% of Tran	3% of One Cour	8% of Work Chg.	11% of Pers Chg.	9% of Inst
Get done quicker at a 4-year college	56%	41%	54%	67%	78%	76%	50%
Not what I expected/ don't like it/ wasn't happy	21	9	29	67	11	16	40
Transfer of credits is a hassle	15	36	11	-	-	8	-
Miscellaneous reasons	7	9	11	-	6	4	10
Can't say	8	5	11	-	6	4	5

And almost all former students (95%) agreed with 95% of the current students: they would recommend a community college to a friend.

"Would you recommend a community college to a friend?"

	('90 Stud.)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes	(95%)	95%	96%	94%	95%	95%	96%
No	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Depends	(4)	4	3	5	4	5	4
Can't say	(-)	-	-	-	-	-	-

	All Resp.	Grad	Tran	One Cour	Work Chg.	Pers Chg.	Inst
Yes	95%	96%	95%	97%	97%	95%	92%
No	1	1	-	1	-	1	1
Depends	4	3	5	1	3	4	6
Can't say	-	-	-	1	-	-	1

COMPOSITION OF THE SURVEY SAMPLE
(95% Confidence Level)

s = 1,200

TYPE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Urban	33%
Suburban	33
Regional	33

TYPE OF STUDENT

Full-time	50%
Part-time	50

SEX OF RESPONDENTS

	All	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Female	53%	55%	55%	50%
Male	47	46	46	50

LENGTH OF ATTENDANCE

	All	Full Time	Part Time
First term	20%	13%	27%
One year	24	28	20
Two years	25	32	18
More than two years	28	26	31
Returned after an absence	3	1	5

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	All Resp.	Full Time	Part Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Full-time	69%	62%	76%	68%	71%	69%
Part-time	18	24	13	19	19	18
Not employed	13	14	11	13	11	14

COMPOSITION OF THE SURVEY SAMPLE (Continued)

AGE OF RESPONDENTS

	All Resp.	Full Time	Part Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
18-19 years old	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%
20-24 years old	43	61	25	40	48	41
25-34 years old	26	22	30	30	25	23
35-44 years old	20	11	29	20	17	22
45-54 years old	7	3	10	5	7	8
55-64 years old	2	1	3	2	2	3
65 and over	1	-	1	1	1	1

MARITAL STATUS

	All Resp.	Full Time	Part Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Single	52%	65%	38%	51%	59%	45%
Married	40	28	52	41	31	47
Divorced	7	6	9	6	8	7
Separated	1	1	1	1	1	1
Widowed	1	1	1	1	-	1

SINGLE PARENT, WITH CHILDREN AT HOME

	All Resp.	Full Time	Part Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes	10%	10%	10%	11%	9%	9%
No	49	62	39	46	59	43

RACE OF RESPONDENTS

	All Resp.	Full Time	Part Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Black	6%	7%	5%	11%	5%	2%
Hispanic	1	1	1	2	1	-
White	90	90	91	84	91	90
Other	2	2	2	1	3	1
Declined to respond	1	1	2	2	1	1

FIRST IN FAMILY TO ATTEND COLLEGE

	All Resp.	Full Time	Part Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes	37%	38%	36%	36%	36%	39%
No	63	62	64	65	64	61

Project Outreach
of the Michigan State Board of Education
Michigan Department of Education
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 373-4631

Interview # _____

PROJECT OUTREACH
Community College
Non-Returning
Student Survey
June 1990

Time interview began: _____

INTERVIEWER: _____

DATE OF INTERVIEW: _____

1. Type of College:
   - Urban 01
   - Suburban 02
   - Regional 03

2. Type of Student:
   - Full-time 01
   - Part-time 02

3. Sex of respondent:
   - Female 01
   - Male 02

OPENING BY INTERVIEWER

Hello, this is _____. I'm an interviewer for Project Outreach of the State Board of Education. We're doing a statewide opinion survey of former community college students to collect their opinions about their college experiences. Your name was randomly selected by computer to be included in this survey. Your opinions will be kept strictly confidential; no personal identification is being recorded. My questions will take about 15 minutes or so ... depending on you. Is this a convenient time for you? (IF NOT A CONVENIENT TIME, MAKE A CALL-BACK APPOINTMENT.)

4. First of all, how long had you attended your community college?

   - Was in my first term 01
   - One year 02
   - Two years 03
   - More than 2 years 04
   - Returned after an absence 05
   - Transferred here 06

5. Did you first apply to a 4-year college?

   - Yes (GO TO #6) 01
   - No (SKIP TO #7) 02
   - Can't say (SKIP TO #7) 03

6. (IF "YES" ON #5) Why did you select a community college (instead)?

   (DO NOT READ LIST BUT MARK ANY ANSWERS THAT RESPONDENT GIVES)

   - Closer to home 01
   - Cheaper/less costly 02
   - Have a better program 03
   - Close to my job 04
   - More personalized 05
   - Friend/relative goes there 06
   - Need to improve my grades 07
   - Other(SPECIFY) _____ 08
   - Can't say 09

7. (IF "NO" ON #5) Why did you choose a community college?

(DO NOT READ LIST BUT MARK ANY ANSWERS THAT RESPONDENT GIVES)

Closer to home 01
To help me mature. 02
To help me be more independent 03
It's more personal 04
Cheaper/less costly. 05
Close to my job. 06
To get ready for a 4-year school 07
Other (SPECIFY)
_____ 08
Can't say. 09

8. What was your purpose -- that is, your primary educational goal in attending that community college?

(DO NOT READ LIST BUT MARK ANY ANSWERS THAT RESPONDENT GIVES)

Improvement of existing job skills 01
Preparation for a job I hope to get. 02
University transfer credit 03
Personal interest. 04
Other (SPECIFY)
_____ 05
Can't say. 06

9. How did you expect to accomplish this goal? What type of requirements were involved?

(DO NOT READ LIST BUT MARK ANY ANSWERS THAT RESPONDENT GIVES)

Selected course(s) only. 01
Certificate -- less than 1 year. 02
Certificate -- one year. 03
Certificate -- two year. 04
Associate Degree 05
Complete Apprenticeship requirements 06
University/college transfer. 07
Other (SPECIFY)
_____ 08
Can't say. 09

10. In what type of program were you enrolled?

(DO NOT READ LIST BUT MARK ANY ANSWERS THAT RESPONDENT GIVES)

Allied Health/Nursing 01
Business 02
Corrections 03
Education 04
English 05
Humanities 06
Law Enforcement 07
Mathematics 08
Paralegal 09
Political Science 10
Science 11
Social Science 12
Technical/Skilled Trades 13
Other (SPECIFY)
_____ 14
Undecided 15
Can't say 16

11. How long do you think it would take for you to accomplish your goal? (CIRCLE ONE)

One more year 01
Probably two years 02
Over 2 to 3 years 03
3 to 5 years 04
More than 5 years 05
Whatever it takes 06
Depends 07
Can't say 08

12. If you are pursuing a formal program of study (like a Certificate, Associate Degree, or Apprenticeship), what portion of it did you complete by the time you left? All, more than half, about half, or less than half? (CIRCLE ONE)

All 01
More than half 02
About half 03
Less than half 04
Can't say 05

13. Do you plan to enroll at this same college in the future? (CIRCLE ONE)

Yes, next/fall term 01
Yes, at a later date 02
No 03
Undecided 04

14. May I ask, why did you not return to the community college? (PROBE:) Any other reason?

(DO NOT READ LIST BUT MARK ANY ANSWERS THAT RESPONDENT GIVES)

I graduated, received an Associate's degree. . 01
Transferred to a four-year college 02
Unsure of my academic/career goal. 03
Became dissatisfied with my career field . . . 04
Had difficulty finding enough time to study. . 05
Only interested in a particular course(s). . .06
Program was not what I expected. 07
Found a job (in occupation for which I trained 08
Found a job (in another occupation). 09
Classes conflicted with work schedule. 10
Financial difficulty; could not afford it. . . 11
Did not like my teacher(s) 12
Did not feel education was worth the time. . . 13
Moved away 14
Job change prevented going to school 15
I needed tutorial assistance 16
Courses I needed were not available. 17
Health difficulty. 18
Got married/divorced - status changed. 19
Courses too difficult to understand. 20
Felt uncomfortable with young people 21
Other (SPECIFY:)
_____ 22
Can't say/declined 23

15. Do you think a visit with a college counselor would have been helpful to you at the time you were thinking of terminating your experience at the community college?

Yes, definitely. 01
Yes, possibly. 02
No 03
Can't say. 04

16. Would you consider returning to the same community college?

(DO NOT READ ANSWERS BUT MARK ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Yes, as a full-time student. 01
Yes, as a part-time student. 02
Maybe; it depends. 03
No, will not return. 04
I did return to another program. 05
Attending another college now. 06
Can't say/not sure 07

17. What one factor would most influence you to re-enroll at that community college?

Off-campus courses 01
Saturday classes 02
If my job changes to permit it 03
If financial help is available 04
Other (SPECIFY)
_____05
Can't say. 06

When you were first considering attending a community college, how important were these kinds of things ... very important, somewhat important, or not too important:

		Very Imp.	Somewhat Imp.	Not Too Imp.	Can't Say
18.	Academic reputation of the college	01	02	03	04
19.	Reputation of the faculty	01	02	03	04
20.	Availability of a particular program of study	01	02	03	04
21.	Variety of courses offered	01	02	03	04
22.	Location of the college	01	02	03	04
23.	Size of the college	01	02	03	04
24.	Opportunity for student leadership	01	02	03	04
25.	Entrance requirements for the college	01	02	03	04
26.	Cost of attending the college	01	02	03	04
27.	Type of community in which the college is located	01	02	03	04
28.	Availability of financial aid or scholarship	01	02	03	04
29.	Opportunity for part-time or full-time work	01	02	03	04
30.	Student completion rate	01	02	03	04
31.	Graduate job placement rate	01	02	03	04

Let me ask you about some other things that may be important to a person selecting a college. How important were these kinds of things to you... very important, somewhat important, not too important:

		Very Imp.	Somewhat Imp.	Not Too Imp.	Can't Say
32.	Competitive sports opportunities (Varsity athletics)	01	02	03	04
33.	Social climate and activities at the college	01	02	03	04
34.	Health and wellness programs	01	02	03	04
35.	Racial/ethnic makeup of the college	01	02	03	04
36.	Male/female ratio of student body	01	02	03	04
37.	Type of housing available; if any	01	02	03	04
38.	Facilities available (labs, classrooms, recreation, etc.)	01	02	03	04
39.	Extracurricular activities (drama, athletics, music, etc.)	01	02	03	04
40.	Friends attend (or plan to attend) college	01	02	03	04
41.	Advice of parents or relatives	01	02	03	04
42.	Advice of high school counselors or teachers	01	02	03	04
43.	Advice of someone who attended college	01	02	03	04
44.	Contact(s) with college representatives	01	02	03	04

Community colleges offer a wide range of services to students. Let me read you some of those. As I name each one, tell me how you would rate that service at your former community college...excellent, good, fair, or poor.

		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A Can't Say
45.	New student orientation	01	02	03	04	05
46.	Course selection advisement	01	02	03	04	05
47.	Tutorial help	01	02	03	04	05
48.	Financial aid assistance	01	02	03	04	05
49.	Job placement services	01	02	03	04	05
50.	Library services	01	02	03	04	05
51.	Child care provisions	01	02	03	04	05
52.	Student activities	01	02	03	04	05
53.	Computer labs, facilities	01	02	03	04	05
54.	Reading labs	01	02	03	04	05
55.	Typing rooms	01	02	03	04	05
56.	Study rooms, areas	01	02	03	04	05
57.	Parking availability	01	02	03	04	05
58.	Handicapped access	01	02	03	04	05
59.	Bookstore	01	02	03	04	05
60.	Food service	01	02	03	04	05
61.	Safety on campus	01	02	03	04	05

Now let me read you a handful of statements about your community college. Tell me, when it comes to your former community college, whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each one.

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Say
62.	The college has high-quality academic programs	01	02	03	04	05
63.	The college has a high-quality program in the subject area you plan to pursue	01	02	03	04	05
64.	There are a large number and variety of courses and programs offered at the college	01	02	03	04	05
65.	Your college has too many required courses	01	02	03	04	05
66.	Your college has an "open door" policy -- it admits any student regardless of their academic record	01	02	03	04	05
67.	Your college provides educational opportunities for all students regardless of their academic record	01	02	03	04	05

68. Do you plan to transfer to a 4-year college? (CIRCLE ONE)

Already have 01
Yes. 02
No 03
Don't know/undecided 04

69. How important is getting an Associate degree from the community college? Is that very important, somewhat important, or not too important? (CIRCLE ONE)

Very important 01
Somewhat important 02
Not too important. 03
Can't say. 04

70. (IF "VERY" OR "SOMEWHAT") What is so important about an Associate degree?

(DO NOT READ LIST BUT MARK ANY ANSWERS THAT RESPONDENT GIVES)

It's easier: does not take as long as a 4-year degree 01
It shows you have a goal 02
Shows you can complete a goal. 03
Important if you cannot go for a 4-year degree 04
Other (SPECIFY)

_____05
Can't say. 06

71. Do you plan to complete the requirements for an Associate degree from the community college? (CIRCLE ONE)

Yes. 01
No 02
Can't say/undecided. 03

72. Do you plan on getting a 4-year Bachelor's degree? (CIRCLE ONE)

Yes, definitely. 01
Yes, hopefully 02
No 03
Can't say/undecided. 04

73. Do you think you will go on and get a Master's or professional degree? (CIRCLE ONE)

Yes, definitely. 01
Yes, hopefully 02
No 03
Can't say/undecided. 04

74. Let me ask you a different question. What is so important, anyway, about a college education? (PROBE:) Any other reason?

_____

_____

_____

Let's talk about the faculty at your community college. First, when it comes to full-time faculty, how would you rate them on each of these....

FULL-TIME FACULTY:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Can't Say
75. The manner in which they presented their subject material	01	02	03	04	05
76. The interest they took in individual students	01	02	03	04	05
77. Their willingness to meet with students when needed	01	02	03	04	05

Now, how about part-time faculty members...how would you rate them?

PART-TIME FACULTY	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Can't Say
78. The manner in which they presented their subject material	01	02	03	04	05
79. The interest they took in individual students	01	02	03	04	05
80. Their willingness to meet with students when needed	01	02	03	04	05

81. When you felt you needed help from a faculty member, how easy was it to get that help -- very easy, somewhat easy, somewhat difficult, or very difficult? (CIRCLE ONE)

Very easy 01
Somewhat easy 02
Somewhat difficult 03
Very difficult 04
Can't say/have not needed 05

82. Let's change the subject. How reasonable was the cost of tuition at the community college you attended? Is it very reasonable, somewhat reasonable, or unreasonable? (CIRCLE ONE)

Very reasonable 01
Somewhat reasonable 02
Unreasonable 03
Can't say 04

83. Do you think you were getting your money's worth? (CIRCLE ONE)

Yes 01
No 02
Can't say 03

84. Based on what you know, how much of the cost of being enrolled in college is covered by tuition? (CIRCLE ONE)

All of it 01
Most of it 02
About one-half of it 03
Less than one-half 04
Other (SPECIFY)

_____05
Can't say 06

Let me ask you about the different fees that are charged by some community colleges. How reasonable are each of these -- very reasonable, somewhat reasonable, or reasonable?

		Very Reason.	Somewhat Reason.	Un-Reason.	Not Applicable
85.	Registration fee	01	02	03	04
86.	Lab fees	01	02	03	04
87.	Activity fee	01	02	03	04
88.	Physical education fee	01	02	03	04
89.	Any other fees? (SPECIFY)	01	02	03	04

90. Tell me, did the education or training you received at the community college make any difference in your job status or salary? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS ARE O.K.)

Got a new job as a result 01
Got promoted 02
Got a raise 03
Other (SPECIFY)

_____04
No; made no difference 05
Can't say 06

91. What kind of relationship would you like to keep with your former community college?

Would still like to get course info 01
Interested in special lectures, workshops . . .02
Interested in Alumni program 03
Other (SPECIFY)

_____04
Not interested 05
Can't say 06

92. Tell me, before we finish, if you had to do it all over again, would you enroll in a community college? (CIRCLE ONE)

Yes, definitely	01
Yes, possibly	02
No	03
Can't say/depends	04

93. (IF "NO" ON #92) May I ask why not?

_____

_____

_____

94. Would you recommend a community college to a friend? (CIRCLE ONE)

Yes	01
No	02
Depends	03
Can't say	04

95. (IF "NO" ON #94) Why not?

_____

_____

_____

THESE LAST QUICK QUESTIONS ARE JUST TO HELP US CLASSIFY THE OPINIONS OF THE PEOPLE WE ARE TALKING TO

96. Were you attending classes on the main campus of your college or in an extension location?

Main campus	01
Extension site	02
Both	03
Can't say	04

97. Are you the first from your family to attend college?

Yes	01
No	02
Can't say	03

98. Are you now employed either full-time or part-time?

Full-time	01
Part-time	02
Not employed	03
Can't say	04

99. Would you mind telling me the year in which you were born?

1925 and prior (65 and over)	01
1926 through 1935 (55 thru 64)	02
1936 through 1945 (45 thru 54)	03
1946 through 1955 (35 thru 44)	04
1956 through 1965 (25 thru 34)	05
1966 through 1970 (20 thru 24)	06
1971 through 1972 (18 and 19)	07
Declined to respond	08

100. Are you single, married, divorced or separated?

Single	01
Married	02
Divorced	03
Separated	04
Widowed	05
Declined to respond	06

101. (IF "SINGLE", "SEPARATED", OR "DIVORCED") Are you a parent with children at home?

Yes	01
No	02
Declined to respond	03

102. And, would you mind telling me -- are you black, Hispanic, white or of some other ethnic group? (CIRCLE ONE)

Black	01
Hispanic	02
White	03
Other	04
Declined to respond	05

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO GIVE ME YOUR OPINIONS

INTERVIEWER: _____

COMMENTS: _____

_____

Time interview ended: _____

ERIC Clearinghouse for Junior Colleges
FEB 15 1991